

DAILY REPORT

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JAPAN

| | |
|--|-----|
| Sumida News Conference on Discount Rate Cut | C 1 |
| Cut To Boost GNP | C 2 |
| Japan, EC Talks End With 'Some' Agreement | C 2 |
| Envoy Leaving for U.S. To End Fishery Dispute | C 3 |
| ROK Army Chief Meets Defense Agency Minister | C 3 |
| Japan Expected To Assist North Korean Stowaway | C 3 |
| Government Pledges Yen Aid to Debtor Nations | C 4 |
| New Ambassadors Appointed to Finland, Iran | C 4 |
| Briefs: Jan Wholesale Prices Down | C 4 |

NORTH KOREA

| | |
|---|----------|
| Condemnation of 'Team Spirit-87' Continues | D 1 |
| 19 Feb Radio Commentary | D 1 |
| Kang Hui-won Rally Speech | D 3 |
| 20 Feb NODONG SINMUN | D 8 |
| 20 Feb KCNA | D 10 |
| Anniversary of Founding of Soviet Army Marked | D 10 |
| Attache's Press Conference | D 10 |
| Soldiers' Meeting | D 10 |
| NODONG SINMUN: WPK Leads Reunification Cause | [15 Feb] |
| Chon's Human Rights Committees Assailed | D 11 |
| | D 21 |

SOUTH KOREA

| | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| Seoul Olympics Head Sets Sep Deadline for DPRK | [KYODO] | E 1 |
| Chon Stresses Readiness Against North's Moves | | E 1 |
| [THE KOREA TIMES 20 Feb] | | |
| Prime Minister No on Fate of Defector in Japan | | E 2 |
| North Korean Defector Holds Press Conference | | E 2 |
| DJP Sets Deadline for Constitutional Reform | | E 4 |

MONGOLIA

| | |
|---|-----|
| MONTSAME Lauds Gorbachev Speech at Moscow Forum | F 1 |
| Sodnom Receives Departing British Ambassador | F 1 |
| Goals, Tasks of Mass Defense Work Month Set | F 2 |
| Officials Attend Health Workers Conference | F 2 |

BURMA

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Burmese Troops Attack Opium Warlord's Outpost | G 1 |
| [BANGKOK POST 19 Feb] | |
| Offensive Continues | [BANGKOK POST 20 Feb] |

CAMBODIA

Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed With Poland
VONADK: Battalion Defects to DK Forces 18 Feb

H 1
H 1

LAOS

Kaysone Phomvihan Visits Champassak Province
Thai 'Imperialists' Obstruct Improving Relations
PASASON 18 Feb Commentary
PASASON on Economic Units' Rights to Mastery

I 1
I 1
I 2
I 3

THAILAND

Thai Army Commander To Visit Laos 'Next Month'
[BANGKOK POST 20 Feb]
Officer Wounded in Clash With SRV Intruders
Authorities Angered at Refugee Mistreatment Charge
[BANGKOK WORLD 20 Feb]
General Terms Political Situation 'Unstable'
[THE NATION 20 Feb]

J 1
J 1
J 1
J 3

VIETNAM

AFP: Shevardnadze To Visit in 'Next Few Weeks'
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Cabinet Reshuffle
Doan Khue New Chief of Staff [AFP]
Reductions in Armed Forces To Improve Efficiency [AFP]
Council of Ministers' Directive on Elections
Nguyen Thanh Binh Attends Ha Bac Meeting

K 1
K 1
K 1
K 2
K 3
K 5

PHILIPPINES

Paper Reports Document Urging Military Shakeup
[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 19 Feb]
Ramos Warns Coup Plotters To Abandon 'Plans' [AFP]
Plotters Assured of Funds [BUSINESS DAY 19 Feb]
Manila Police on 'Alert' Against Loyalists, NPA
[MANILA BULLETIN 19 Feb]
Ileto Says Truce Provided Valuable Intelligence [AFP]
NPA Holds Isabela Village Residents Hostage
NPA Rebels Escape
Subversive Documents, 2 Rebels Captured in Raid
NDF Image Said To Suffer During Cease-Fire
MILF, NPA Meeting Not Seen as Threat to Talks
MNLF Formally Submits Autonomy Terms Document [AFP]
More MNLF Terms [BUSINESS DAY 17 Feb]
2 Lupao Massacre Reports Submitted to Aquino
Aquino To Visit Site
Aquino Announces 24 Senatorial Candidates
Aquino To Preside Over People Power Celebration
Tolentino on Opposition Filing Single Ticket
Correction to Muslim Faction Boycott of Talks

P 1
P 3
P 4
P 6
P 6
P 7
P 8
P 8
P 8
P 10
P 10
P 12
P 13
P 13
P 14
P 15
P 15
P 15

SUMITA NEWS CONFERENCE ON DISCOUNT RATE CUT

OW200949 Tokyo KYODO in English 0938 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO -- Satoshi Sumita, governor of the Bank of Japan, said Friday reduction of Japan's official discount rate by half a point to a record low of 2.5 percent per annum, effective next Monday, is a "severe choice" for Japan to make for stabilizing foreign exchange rates.

Sumita said that deregulation, market opening or fiscal spending measures would be the core of Japan's future economic policies as using monetary policy to stimulate the economy or stabilize exchange rates is nearing its limit.

Sumita also said the central bank's decision to lower the discount rate reflects Japan's readiness to coordinate fiscal and monetary policies with other major industrialized countries.

Sumita made the remarks at a press conference after chairing an extraordinary policy board meeting Friday afternoon to decide on the cut in the key lending rate, charged on loans to commercial banks.

Sumita is leaving Friday night for Paris together with Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to attend meetings of the Group of Five (G-5) and Group of Seven (G-7) nations Saturday and Sunday.

Sumita suggested that Japan should make greater efforts than before to use fiscal spending as a tool to stimulate the economy, though within the government's framework of restoring state finances to a healthy condition and stopping issuance of deficit-covering bonds.

Sumita said the central bank hopes the discount rate cut, the fifth since the beginning of last year, would contribute to exchange rate stability and steady expansion of domestic demand.

Since the beginning of this year, there was a brief instability in the yen-dollar rate, Sumita said. The dollar's exchange value hit a postwar low of 149.98 yen momentarily in mid-January in Tokyo.

The expansion of the Japanese economy on the whole has slowed down recently on sluggish mining and industrial production, restraint in capital investment and employment adjustments by manufacturing industries, Sumita said.

However, Sumita said the central bank should more than before closely watch the money supply and every movement that may be related to relaxation of monetary policy. He said prices are stable at present but the central bank would be vigilant against any inflationary signs in the future.

Japan cut the discount rate four times last year, each time by half a point, to the previous record low of 3 percent to prop up the economy and overcome deflationary effects of the strong yen.

Sumita said the G-5 and G-7 meetings in Paris will affirm cooperation on foreign exchange market problems.

The joint press statement January 21 in Washington by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker and Miyasawa seeking stability in foreign exchange rates will be expanded to include the other nations at the meetings, Sumita said. The United States, Japan, West Germany, France and Britain make up the G-5, while Italy and Canada join them in the G-7.

Sumita, however, said he has not heard about the substance of a reference range plan reportedly proposed by Baker to other G-5 and G-7 nations. He said he does not think an agreement on this plan will be reached at the Paris meetings.

"Stability in foreign exchange rates is not only vital to the Japanese economy but to the world's economic growth," Sumita said.

"If the yen rate continues to move unstably to still higher levels, it would dampen Japan's basic policy goals of expanding domestic demand and restructuring the economy to meet the expectations of other nations," he said.

Cut to Boost GNP

OW201003 Tokyo KYODO in English 0949 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO -- The just-announced 0.5-point cut in the official discount rate will boost the growth of Japan's gross national product (GNP) by 0.05 percent in the initial year, 0.10 percent in the second year and 0.15 percent in the third year, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Friday. The EPA calculated the estimate by using its own economic models about the world economy, the officials said.

The Bank of Japan decided Friday to cut the key lending rate by a half a percentage point to a record low of 2.5 percent per annum.

JAPAN, EC TALKS END WITH 'SOME' AGREEMENT

OW191109 Tokyo KYODO in English 1033 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO -- Japan and the European Community (EC) ended four days of consultation here Thursday on relaxation of Japanese standards and certification regarding imports of European automobiles and medical equipment, with agreement reached on some items, government officials said.

Heinrich von Moltke, director in charge of restructuring, nonmember countries and raw materials, represented the EC at the meeting and Michihiko Ikeda, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Bureau, represented Japan.

The officials said the talks covered about 50 items on auto standards and certificates, including type certificates, insurance and tax. They said EC was not fully prepared regarding the medical equipment. Therefore, both sides agreed to discuss this area in the next meeting, whose date was not immediately decided, the officials said.

The agenda items on which agreement was reached included the safety standard for automobile heat shield which was left to the discretion of the industry.

Other items such as speedometer and overheating warning equipment standards, administrative format-making and insurance rates will be discussed again in the next meeting, the officials said.

ENVOY LEAVING FOR U.S. TO END FISHERY DISPUTE

OW200842 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO — Japan will send a special envoy to the United States next week to settle a dispute over Japan's fish import quotas, Mutsuki Kato, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, said Friday.

GOROKU Satake, the ministry's fishery chief, will leave for Washington Sunday for talks with Michael Smith, U.S. deputy trade representative, Tuesday and Wednesday, Kato told reporters. The U.S. is calling for immediate elimination of import quotas.

Satake will carry Kato's personal letter to Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter, he said.

In an effort to maintain the import quotas for herring and Alaska pollak products, Satake will present Japan's new proposals, Kato said. The ideas may include raising an import quota for herring and diversifying Japanese buyers of U.S. fish, informed sources said.

Ministry officials said if the bilateral talks fail, the U.S. is very likely to request establishment of a multinational consultative panel at a council meeting in early March of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

ROK ARMY CHIEF MEETS DEFENSE AGENCY MINISTER

OW191111 Tokyo KYODO in English 1024 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO — South Korean Army Chief of Staff Pak Hui-to Thursday paid a courtesy call on administrative vice minister for Defense Agency Yazaki Shinji and they agreed that the Soviet military buildup in the Far East is a threat to both Japan and South Korea.

Pak told Yazaki the Soviet threat has increased because the Soviet forces in the Far East region account for one-third of the Soviet Union's total forces and military cooperation between North Korea and the Soviet Union has progressed.

Yazaki said that continued buildup of the Soviet forces in the region poses a latent threat to Japan. He told Pak that Japan's fundamental defense policy has not changed, though its proposed defense budget for fiscal 1987 exceeds 1 percent of the gross national product (GNP), ending a decade-old policy holding down defense expenditures to below 1 percent of GNP. Pak expressed his understanding.

He arrived here Thursday at the invitation of the ground self-defense force Chief of Staff Masao Ishii and will stay in Japan until Sunday.

JAPAN EXPECTED TO ASSIST NORTH KOREAN STOWAWAY

OW190623 Tokyo KYODO in English 0608 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO — Chief Cabinet Secretary Masaharu Gotoda Thursday indicated assistance to a North Korean soldier stowaway for humanitarian considerations.

Gotoda told reporters that no consensus has been arrived at within the government on how to adjudicate the North Korean, Min Hong-ku, 24, who stowed away to Japan aboard a Japanese freighter in October 1983. The Korean, who has been detained in Japan for more than three years, is reportedly seeking defection to South Korea.

Concerning the two Japanese seamen of the freighter Fujisan Maru No 18, detained in North Korea since 1983 on spying charges, Gotoda said the government will plea for North Korea's understanding and request their release.

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES YEN AID TO DEBTOR NATIONS

OW180639 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 18 KYODO -- The Japanese Government said Wednesday it will offer 3,819.34 million yen in grant-in-aid to debt-ridden Bangladesh, Yemen and Burma in accordance with the United Nations' resolution adopted in March 1978. The government pledged 3,384.82 million yen to Bangladesh, 105.72 million yen to Yemen and 328.80 million yen to Burma, Foreign Ministry officials said.

In addition, the Japanese Government agreed to extend up to 1,241 million yen in aid to Peru to construct a fishery training center in Paita.

Another 636 million yen in aid was extended to Bangladesh to replace radar equipment used for weather surveillance.

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED TO FINLAND, IRAN

OW200039 Tokyo KYODO in English 0027 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 20 KYODO -- The cabinet Friday approved the appointments of new ambassadors to Finland and Iran. Yoshio Fujimoto, 58, envoy to Colombia since 1984, was named ambassador to Iran. Wataru Miyakawa, 62, who has previously served as ambassador to the United Nations and Nigeria, was appointed envoy to Finland.

Fujimoto joined the Foreign Ministry in 1952 after leaving the University of Tokyo without taking a degree. A native of Okayama Prefecture, Fujimoto has also served as minister at the Japanese Embassy in Melbourne, Australia.

Miyakawa, who hails from Tokyo, joined the foreign office in 1948 on graduation from the University of Tokyo. He was once consul general in Los Angeles.

BRIEFS

JAN WHOLESALE PRICES DOWN -- Tokyo, Feb. 17 KYODO -- The yen's renewed rise reduced wholesale prices 0.6 percent in January from December for the first decline in three months, the Bank of Japan reported Tuesday. The central bank put the wholesale price index at 86.5 last month against the 1980 standard of 100, down 10.3 percent from January last year, the 20th straight month of a year-on-year drop. It was also the first double-digit decline since last October. The yen's exchange rate averaged 154.67 yen to the U.S. dollar in January, up 4.7 percent from 162.26 yen in December. The higher yen contributed 0.4 percentage points or two-thirds of the month-on-month fall. [Excerpt] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0231 GMT 17 Feb 87 OW]

CONDEMNATION OF 'TEAM SPIRIT-87' CONTINUES

19 Feb Radio Commentary

SK200952 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Commentary by station commentator Cho Tong-ik: "A Grave Provocative Act Threatening Peace"]

[Text] In defiance of strong protest and denunciation from all Koreans and the peace-loving people of the world, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique have embarked down a road of conducting the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise in South Korea beginning 19 February.

Units of aggression troops and operational equipment are being amassed in South Korea and contiguous waters from U.S. military bases in Asia and the Pacific, including Japan, and from the U.S. mainland. These aggression troops which are being moved from abroad are to conduct a joint exercise for the purpose of striking at our republic on the ground, in the air, and at sea in cooperation with the aggression troops stationed in South Korea and the puppet armed forces.

Because of the war exercise staged by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets, the situation in our country has become extremely exacerbated and the danger capable of lighting the torch of war at any time has become more real. This is not only an open violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement which bans the introduction into Korea of reinforcing military personnel and operational military equipment from outside, but it is also an intolerably provocative, criminal act of seriously threatening peace in our country and of leading the situation closer to the brink of war in defiance of the just and fair public opinion.

The "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise is a central expression of the aggressive disposition and bellicosity of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. The U.S. imperialists' and puppets' babbling that the joint military exercise is a defensive exercise is as preposterous as describing a lance as a shield.

The size and contents of this military exercise in which vast troops of more than 200,000, more than necessary for a full-scale war, with the mobilization of modern military hardware, will conduct landing operations, river-crossing operations, and airborne attack operations reveal its offensive and adventurous nature.

A few days ago, a person holding the title of puppet defense minister babbled that South Korea will do something against someone else with a so-called 1-to-3-day operation, thereby revealing that "Team Spirit" has entered an extremely reckless stage where it will be used to control somebody else with a short-term battle.

In addition, "Team Spirit" is a full-scale nuclear war exercise being conducted by mobilizing even nuclear units in the midst of the densely deployed nuclear weapons and their delivery means in South Korea. There is no need to prove that the joint military exercise is a general preliminary war, a nuclear test war designed to mount a preemptive strike against our republic and that it even has the dangerous possibility of transforming into direct military acts against us at any time.

What must be taken seriously is that when we called for removing the state of political and military confrontation which is now becoming more acute on the Korean peninsula by holding high-level North-South political and military talks they staged the joint military exercise in response to our call.

Our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks is a reasonable and practical national salvation measure as it points to the most appropriate negotiation state, the venue of dialogue, that is capable of eliminating the state of political and military confrontation, which is the source of tension on the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean ruling bunch's ignoring this sincere peace proposal of ours and staging a war exercise against their fellow countrymen by servilely following the aggressors is nothing but a betrayal that fully lays bare their antipeace, antinational nature for all to see.

It has now become unquestionably clear why the South Korean ruling bunch responded to our peace proposal by babbling about such unreasonable things as talks between persons in highest authority and the resumption of dialogues that have already been established -- a far cry from reality. This is because they want neither the relaxation of tension, nor peace, nor dialogue.

The puppets' antipeace stand of denying dialogue as such has unquestionably been encouraged by the U.S. imperialists. While ignoring our proposal for tripartite talks, the U.S. imperialists have paid lip service to direct North-South dialogue. That they have now staged a large-scale war exercise with the puppets against us who have put forward the proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks proves that, in reality, they do not want direct dialogue.

The U.S. imperialists are the archvillians responsible for jeopardizing peace and destroying dialogue in our country and the puppets are their faithful perpetrators.

By forcibly conducting "Team Spirit-87", the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are now scheming to exacerbate tension on the Korean peninsula, to perfect preparations for a war of northward invasion, and to bring under control the crisis facing their crumbling fascist ruling system by threatening the South Korean people.

However, they will solve nothing and gain nothing from their policy of strengthen.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should abandon the provocative commotions of war exercise without delay.

If they continue to run amok with their commotions of war exercises without heeding our warning, they will have to take full responsibility for the consequences arising therefrom.

Kang Hui-won Rally Speech

SK200526 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1000 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Speech by Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, responsible secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal WPK Committee, and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, at Pyongyang mass rally held at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on the afternoon of 19 February to denounce the "Team Spirit - 87" joint military exercise -- recorded]

[Text] Comrades, we have gathered here today at this mass rally in connection with grave developments that have extremely aggravated the situation in the country due to the criminal war exercise maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, making imminent the danger of nuclear war in an environment in which all the workers in the country are effecting new innovations and rapid progress and attaining great success in the struggle to implement the tasks of the first year of the Third 7-Year Plan, upholding the historic policy speech of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song during the First Session of the Eighth SPA, and in which all Korean compatriots at home and abroad are joining the struggle for national salvation to realize peace and the peaceful reunification of the country.

As is already known, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique began on 19 February the large-scale "Team Spirit 87" joint military exercise despite the strong criticism and denunciation of public opinion at home and abroad. Mobilized in this war exercise, which will continue for 4 months, until early May, are approximately 200,000 troops from units of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces from the U.S. mainland and in the Pacific region, the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces in South Korea, and the South Korean puppet army, as well as war material, including an aircraft carrier battle group belonging to the U.S. 7th Fleet.

A great number of troops from the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps from the U.S. mainland, Japan, and the Pacific region are now being dispatched to South Korea aboard planes and transports. Approximately (71,000) advance troops from the 3d Marine Division of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces have already arrived and been deployed in South Korea.

The adventurous war exercise commotion of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is a vicious challenge to our serious peace-loving efforts to ease tension in the country and open a new phase for peace on the Korean peninsula and peaceful reunification through dialogue and negotiation.

As everyone knows, out of sheer desire to ease the strained situation on the Korean peninsula created by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets and to accelerate peaceful reunification, we have put forward many peace proposals in recent years and have made very sincere efforts to realize them. Last year, we put forward a series of reasonable peace proposals, such as the proposal to call off military exercises, the proposal to make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free peace zone, and the proposal to hold talks among military persons in authority. We took steps to refrain from conducting large-scale military exercises over the entire area of the northern half of the republic in general, and mobilized approximately 150,000 KPA soldiers for socialist construction; we then called on the United States and the South Korean side to take corresponding steps.

In particular, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward a new proposal for national salvation by holding high-level North-South political and military talks in his historic policy speech at the First Session of the Eighth SPA held some time ago as a measure to ease the state of tension that prevails in the country at present and to create an atmosphere for dialogue, peace, and peaceful reunification.

The new proposal for national salvation put forward by the great leader reflects the peace-loving position of our party and the government of the republic to end the state of political and military confrontation being further strained with each passing day between the North and the South and to promote trust and unity between fellow countrymen so as to create a general atmosphere for dialogue and to open a breakthrough for peace and the peaceful reunification of the country. The proposal also elucidated the most realistic and reasonable way to prevent war and ensure peace on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, the proposal evoked active support and welcome from the entire Korean nation and the peace-loving people of the world as soon as it was announced. [applause]

To realize the new proposal for national salvation put forward by the great leader, we sent the South Korean side a letter containing specific proposals, expecting the South Korean persons in authority to respond positively to it. However, the South Korean persons in authority turned away from our fair and just peace proposal with the backing of the U.S. imperialists, and, in collusion with foreign forces, have planned to conduct the large-scale "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise, thus blocking the road to dialogue and peace and again leading the situation in the country to the dangerous brink of war.

In the name of the Pyongyang citizens gathered at this mass rally and in the name of all the Korean people, I sternly denounce "Team Spirit-87" conducted by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the Chon Tu-hwan puppet clique, branding it a grave provocation designed to reject peace on the Korean peninsula, to destroy peace, and to start a new war of aggression, and an unpardonable crime that endangers peace in Asia and the world. [chanting of slogans]

Comrades, "Team Spirit-87" conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is a criminal war commotion to realize the U.S. imperialists' Korean and Asian policy of aggression. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Because of the U.S. imperialists' war policy and their maneuvers to build up nuclear arms, South Korea has been turned into the most dangerous source of war in Asia and the greatest forward nuclear base in the Far East; and on the land, in the sea, and in the air of South Korea, frenzied large-scale war exercises to move the aggressive war plan into actual combat have been continuously conducted.

Placing great significance on the military and strategic position South Korea assumes in realizing their world strategy, the current U.S. rulers have already turned South Korea into the largest powder magazine for nuclear war and into a forward nuclear base by introducing nuclear weapons, the means to deliver nuclear weapons, and numerous other types of war equipment to South Korea. While openly babbling that another Korean war would be a nuclear war, they have also frantically conducted nuclear war exercises designed to invade our republic. In particular, "Team Spirit-87", in which large forces approximately 200,000-strong and ultramodern devices of war are mobilized, is a military commotion designed to complete a comprehensive war system intended to strike at the northern half of the Republic from the air, the ground, and the sea by surprise.

Deployed in this joint military exercise are main force units of the U.S. 7th Fleet, including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier armada; B-52 strategic bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons; F-111, F-16, and F-15 fighter-bombers; missiles capable of delivering nuclear warheads; long-range cannons; and numerous other devices for nuclear attack. The notorious Green Beret unit, which specializes in destruction, arson, and agitation after infiltrating into rear areas of the opposing side, while carrying nuclear bombs, and even the U.S. Strategic Command, which specializes in surveilling terrain during a nuclear war, are participating in this exercise. Chemical weapons -- mass-destruction weapons -- are also mobilized in this exercise. This clearly shows that "Team Spirit-87" is a comprehensive [word indistinct] exercise and a dangerous war commotion designed to launch a nuclear war, a chemical war, a special war, and an all-out war.

The U.S. imperialists are kicking up this dangerous war commotion to strengthen the military collusion between the United States, Japan, and the South Korean puppets. They are also using the Japanese territory as a base for sorties, a relay base, and a supply base. This cannot be overlooked. Using the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise as an axis, the U.S. imperialist aggressors have annually strengthened joint exercises among the U.S. military units that participate in "Team Spirit" and the army, navy, and air force [as heard] of the Japanese Self-Defense Force, and have streamlined the military operational and command system between the United States and Japan. This shows that the U.S. imperialists are attempting to provoke a war of aggression in Korea through "Team Spirit", and then to expand this war into a thermonuclear world war by even deploying the Japanese Self-Defense Force.

High-ranking U.S. military authorities once openly stated that "Team Spirit" can develop into an actual war. In some instances, they actually invaded other countries during military exercises. Because of this, we cannot but be extremely watchful of the joint military exercise. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets babble that "Team Spirit-87" is a defensive exercise. This is shameless sophistry designed to conceal the criminal colors of the rascals' offensive and aggressive war exercise. Moreover, after beginning a war exercise designed to attack us, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are playing the game of attempting to invite [us] to observe the war exercise. This is the intolerable mockery of us and an arrogant and incourteous provocation against us.

Even though they babble about dialogue and peace in an effort to conceal the aggressive nature of "Team Spirit-87," the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have consistently sought aggression and war, not dialogue and peace. Just as peace is incompatible with war, dialogue is incompatible with military exercises. Dialogue leads to peace, while military exercises lead to war.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have begun the aggressive war exercise commotion as the people at home and abroad eagerly wish that our new peace proposal is realized. This has more clearly exposed their vicious colors as those who hinder dialogue, as the enemy of peace, and as masterminds of war. The U.S. imperialists began the adventurous "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise, despite strong denunciation by all the Korean people. The peace-loving people of the world seek to learn the hidden purposes of further aggravating the situation in our country, provoking a war -- a nuclear war -- against our people, resolving the crisis that faces their dwindling colonial rule in South Korea, and eternally maintaining South Korea as their military base and their nuclear forward base.

The Chon Tu-hwan nation-selling clique, the war servant of the U.S. imperialists, is attempting to maintain its remaining dirty life by turning South Korea into a site for the criminal nuclear war exercise of the U.S. imperialists, while aggravating North-South confrontation and tension by following the war policy of its master. While kicking up the commotion of a large-scale war exercise against fellow countrymen after turning away from dialogue and colluding with the aggressors, the South Korean rulers babble about so-called existing dialogue and talks between highest responsible persons. This is nothing but a deceptive trick designed to conceal its dirty colors.

Even though, for the sake of the country and the nation, we are trying to sit face to face at the meeting table to alleviate tension, to remove the danger of war, and to probe for ways for the alleviation [of tension], peace, and reunification, the South Korean rulers are frantically conducting this criminal war exercise, while aggravating confrontation within the nation and increasing the danger of war by colluding with foreign forces. The act of the rascals is an antinational crime. Turning a deaf ear to the reasonable proposal to hold high-level North-South political and military talks, the South Korean puppets began the criminal "Team Spirit" war exercise commotion by colluding with the aggressors. They are cursed nation-sellers and very vicious traitors who think nothing of the interests of the country and the nation and who devote everything to the foreign imperialists.

While staging provocative war exercise commotions against us with the U.S. imperialists, the South Korean puppets are more viciously persisting in the maneuvers of anticomunist confrontation and fascistization in South Korea. With the U.S. imperialists' encouragement, the fascist Chon Tu-hwan military clique is tumultuously propagandizing the bogus threat of southward invasion. By concocting sheer lies that we have worked out a plan of southward invasion before the 1988 Olympic Games, and that our Kumgangsan power station construction is for the purpose of carrying out a flooding operation, it is frantically boosting the sentiment of North-South confrontation and hostility and barbarously suppressing the just struggle waged by South Korean people, youths, and students for independence, democracy, and reunification.

The traitorous Chon Tu-hwan clique is relentlessly suppressing the struggle of youths and students who have turned out to reject the foreign forces' domination and subjugation and oppose fascist rule in South Korea. It has branded their struggle as left-leaning and communist-tolerating. It has committed the fascist outrage unprecedented in history of blocking the opposition party's street-rally for a constitutional amendment for a direct election system and it has even obstructed a memorial gathering for student Pak Chong-chol cruelly murdered by torture.

Indeed, the fascist Chon Tu-hwan clique is a servant of war, and a group of outrageous military hooligans who have turned South Korea into a desert devoid of human rights and democracy. They are fiendish fascist murderers.

Today, the most important and urgent problem facing our nation is to alleviate tension on the Korean peninsula, eliminate the danger of war, and guarantee peace. We cannot allow the extinction of the nation by the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war maneuvers. At the same time, we cannot allow the soil of our fatherland to turn into a site for nuclear war.

The "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise staged in South Korea is a product of the U.S. imperialists' line of aggression and war and a prelude to turning our country into the ravages of nuclear war and ruining our nation.

To avoid becoming the victims of the nuclear war of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan puppet clique, all Korean people must continue to strongly wage the popular struggle to oppose "Team Spirit-87".

The South Korean youths, students, and people of all strata must firmly oppose and reject "Team Spirit-87" staged by the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan puppet clique. They must check and thwart their war exercise commotions everywhere, and must more vigorously wage the anti-U.S., antiwar, and antinuclear struggle to withdraw U.S. imperialist forces of aggression and nuclear weapons.

We express conviction that the South Korean youths, students, and people of all strata will continue to gallantly struggle under the anti-U.S. banner for independence and the antifascist banner for democracy to make the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression withdraw from South Korea, liquidate their colonial rule, oppose the fascist military dictatorship, and realize the independence and democratization of the South Korean society. [applause]

The U.S. imperialists' policy of war and their military adventurism in South Korea gravely threatens the peace of Asia and the world. If a new war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, it would easily escalate into a world thermonuclear war.

We express the expectation that the peace-loving governments, political parties, and people of all strata of all countries of the world will further raise their voices to oppose and reject "Team Spirit-87" staged by the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, and will extend firm solidarity to our people's just struggle to turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free peace zone. [applause]

The might of the peace-seeking masses of people is much stronger than that of the war-seeking forces. The U.S. imperialists must correctly realize our people's will to achieve peace for the country and its peaceful reunification. They must act with discretion, unconditionally halt the criminal "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise, and withdraw from South Korea without delay, taking along their nuclear weapons and all other aggressive forces.

The persons in authority in South Korea, if they truly desire peace, dialogue, and the peaceful reunification of the country, must unconditionally respond to our proposal for high-level North-South political and military talks without delay, instead of staging the war exercise against compatriots with foreign forces.

Today, the prevailing situation calls for all people of the northern half of the republic to further heighten their revolutionary vigilance and maintain a tense and mobilized posture at all times.

All people, by firmly uniting around the great leader and the glorious party center, must keenly watch the new war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and make perfect preparations to actively counter the enemies' provocations. By so doing, they must defend our socialist fatherland and the gains of the revolution as a fortress.

By upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's historic policy speech at the first session of the Eighth SPA, we must more vigorously wage the three revolutions -- ideological, technological, and cultural -- on all fronts of the socialist construction and create new miracles and effect new innovations. By so doing, we must once again display the might of our fatherland to the world.

Only victory and honor await our people who struggle for the just cause by upholding the leadership of the party and the leader and by following the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea. [applause]

By holding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in high esteem and following the tested leadership of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, let us all the more vigorously struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland and for the complete victory of socialism. [applause, slogans]

20 Feb NODONG SINMUN

SK201143 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2141 GMT 19 Feb 87

[NODONG SINMUN 20 February commentary: "Offensive Units Swarming in With Fire Clouds"]

[Text] "Team Spirit-87" was launched on 19 February, and U.S. imperialist military forces of aggression have begun to storm into South Korea from abroad.

An unprecedented thing happened in this course. Even though it was announced that the military exercise would begin on 19 February, the work of loading military supplies needed for "Team Spirit" in the Mercury, a 19,000-ton-class cargo ship, had already started at Naha port, Japan, on 13 February. Also, various kinds of military aircraft to be mobilized for the war exercises were busily moving at Kadena base.

Some 1,100 troops of the vanguard unit of the III Marine Amphibious Force which is composed of the 3d Marine Corps Supply Unit, the 3d Marine Corps Division, and the 1st Marine Corps Aviation Unit of the U.S. imperialists aggressors stationed in Okinawa, have already been deployed in Pohang, South Korea and pitched military tents.

Although the "Team Spirit" war exercise have been conducted 11 times in South Korea so far, this is the first time that the military forces of aggression stationed abroad have swarmed into the area of operation even before the war exercise began.

As is already known, babbling about a time of emergency, the U.S. imperialists have thus far considered amassing and deploying the military forces of aggression stationed in the military bases of the U.S. mainland, the Pacific areas, and Japan in South Korea as the first step in the war exercise. However, unlike last year, the U.S. imperialists' amassing of the vanguard unit of the military forces of aggression ahead of the announced schedule for the beginning of the military exercise means that "Team Spirit-87" began not on 19 February as announced, but on a much earlier date. This also proves that this year's "Team Spirit", scheduled to be staged until May, is an unprecedented large-scale war exercise planned to be staged for a much longer time than usual.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors' and South Korean puppets' conducting of a war exercise after rejecting the peace talks proposal advanced by us to alleviate the state of political confrontation and military tension on the Korean peninsula at a time when this issue is on the day's agenda and their attempt to make the scent of gunpowder reek for much longer are an open challenge to us.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets are making a clumsy excuse of describing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise as an open and defensive-type military exercise to conceal their criminal aggressive nature. The "Team Spirit" war exercise is a three-dimensional offensive-type military drill designed to swallow the northern half of the republic at a breath after striking a nuclear blow against it with the mobilization of the vast number of 200,000 military troops -- enough to wage even a war. In this context, can they conceal its offensive nature with this kind of wordplay?

Attracting our attention is the fact that the U.S. imperialists' aggressors have concentrated the military forces of aggression in the Pohang. Pohang was designated as a landing operation area because it is topographically similar to the northern half of the republic. The enemy itself admits this fact.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets are frantically conducting a war drill for a landing operation in the Pohang district. With this drill as momentum, they are mobilizing some 200,000 troops of the land, sea, and air, as well as Marine Corps military troops scheduled to be committed to the war exercise into grand military maneuvers assuming a northward invasion and various exercises for actual warfare. This fact itself shows that "Team Spirit" is not a defensive military exercise but an offensive one designed to invade our republic.

The rascal commander of the U.S. 3d Marine Corps Division, who commanded the Toan landing operation last year, in a so-called press conference held just before the landing operation was conducted confessed that during the period for the "Team Spirit" exercise the forefront of the Marine Corps would be the DMZ.

It is not a secret to anyone that the U.S. imperialist aggressors are frantically attempting to complete the strategy for a 3-day war based on nuclear firepower during the "Team Spirit" war exercise. Some days ago, the so-called puppet minister of defense raved that they would gain ascendancy over someone with a 1-to-3-day strategy by strengthening military conspiracy with the military forces of the U.S. imperialist aggressors. This is not accidental.

The situation of our country is entering a more grave phase because of the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan ring who are running amok in conducting a war exercise for northward invasion.

As rain falls from thick clouds, a war breaks out in a powder-reeking place.

We will watch with vigilance the adventurous play with fire of the U.S. imperialists which may develop into an actual war at any time.

20 Feb KCNA

SK200455 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA) -- The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique started the criminal "Team Spirit 87" joint military exercises on February 19, defying the strong protest and denunciation of the Korean people and the world's peaceloving people, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The military strength and equipment of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces to be mobilised in the military rehearsal began to move to the starting bases from the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, the Philippines, Okinawa and other places. Over 1,000 men of the advance unit of the Third Marine Division of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces have already been deployed in Pohang District, South Korea, and the U.S. Airforce planes and other equipment at the Kadena base, Japan, and the U.S. mainland and Pacific bases are busily moving about for the "Team Spirit 87".

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are whipping up war hysterics, blaring that the U.S. imperialist aggression Airforce in Japan will stage a chemical warfare exercise during the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres.

The criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique in persistently seeking to lay new obstacles to peaceful reunification and aggravate the military tensions between the North and the South, shunning the North's sincere and patient peace initiatives, are inviting fiercer protest and denunciation of the Korean people and the world peaceloving people.

ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF SOVIET ARMY MARKED

Attache's Press Conference

SK200448 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA) -- Gennadiy Bulanov, military attache of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang, called a press conference at his Embassy on February 19 on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army. Saying that the Soviet people and soldiers were grandly celebrating the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army, he noted that the Soviet Army has since its founding performed proud feats by displaying mass heroism and valor in the struggle to defend the socialist homeland.

The military attache gave answers to questions put by reporters.

Soldiers' Meeting

SK200453 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0446 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Pyongyang February 20 (KCNA) -- A soldiers' meeting was held on February 19 at the unit of the Korean People's Army to which Comrade Yi Tae-ho belongs on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army.

Military Attaché Gennadiy Bulanov and an official of the Soviet Embassy in Pyongyang were invited to the meeting which was attended by the soldiers there. Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

NODONG SINMUN: WPK LEADS REUNIFICATION CAUSE

SK180820 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2122 GMT 14 Feb 87

[NODONG SINMUN 15 February special article: "The WPK Is the Guiding Force Which Is Vigorously Leading the Cause Of National Reunification"]

[Text] Reunifying the divided fatherland is the utmost national desire and the supreme national task of all the Korean people. Since the first day of its founding, the WPK, which has lofty responsibility for the destiny of the fatherland and the nation, not only has constantly advanced the revolution and construction in the northern half of the republic, but has also vigorously spurred the entire nation to carry out the sacred struggle for national reunification.

Always standing at the head of the nationwide struggle of our people for national reunification is our glorious party. The WPK is the great guiding force that vigorously leads the cause of national reunification of our people. It is possible only under the guidance of our glorious party to complete the historic cause of national reunification and to achieve the unified development of the nation and the eternal prosperity of our descendants. This is the firm and unshaken will and faith that all of the Korean people have cherished in their hearts.

1. The WPK Is the Revolutionary Party That Has Adopted as Its Loftiest Mission the Achievement of the Cause of National Reunification and Has Resolutely Struggled for its Realization.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: Today we are faced with the important task not only to accelerate socialist construction in the northern half of the republic, but also to reunify the divided fatherland and to establish national sovereignty throughout the country.

The cause of national reunification constitutes an organic component part of the chuche cause -- the cause of national independence -- which was pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. The WPK's basic mission is to struggle for the final victory of the chuche idea.

The chuche cause is the sacred cause to completely achieve our nation's sovereignty and the people's independence. Under the present condition in which a half of the fatherland is under the domination of foreign forces, we cannot speak of the complete realization of the nation's sovereignty and the people's independence.

Independence is the life of the country and the nation. As the great chuche idea has elucidated, the question of the nation of our country -- is the question of national reunification -- is in essence precisely the question to achieve independence -- the life of the nation -- throughout the country by ending the imperialists' colonial domination. Therefore, this question constitutes a component part in the struggle of the masses of people for independence and is the first priority cause of the nation.

As long as there are national boundaries and national distinctions on earth, the struggle of the masses for independence is bound to be carried out with a country and a nation as a unit. As long as people live with a national state as a unit, the destiny of people cannot be contemplated apart from the destiny of their country and nation.

The masses of people can successfully pioneer their destiny in conformity with their aspirations and demands only when the independence of their country and nation is firmly guaranteed. Historical experiences have shown that in the countries where national subjugation and oppression exist, the struggle of the masses of people for independence should be first of all directed toward realizing national independence and that only when this question is resolved can (other) struggles for independence have substantial [silchejok] significance.

In particular, under the condition in which, like our country, the land is divided, the nation is split due to foreign forces, and, thus, the achievement of pan-national independence has failed, the question of nation becomes a more acute question.

Only when the nation exists can ideology, ideal, and system exist. Apart from the nation, all of these are meaningless.

Our nation's struggle for national reunification is the righteous struggle for national sovereignty. It is also a patriotic struggle for national unity.

Proceeding from this, our party not only has adopted the question of reunifying the country and the nation as the supreme national task which transcends differences in ideologies, systems, political views, and religion, but has also asserted to realize national unity under one common ideal and to achieve the country's reunification by founding a unified state.

Proceeding from its important mission for the fatherland and the nation, the WPK has defined independence as the life of the nation and has directed everything toward establishing complete national sovereignty.

For our party, there is no more precious and urgent task than to establish national sovereignty throughout the country. The achievement of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is the sacred cause to achieve the unified development of the country and the nation and their boundless prosperity.

The question of national reunification is the important question related to the destiny of the Korean nation. Our nation is one. Our fatherland is also one. The division of the land and the split of the nation due to the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea not only have imposed unbearable misfortune and sufferings upon the South Korean people, but have also imposed great national disaster upon all of the Korean people and have created grave obstacles to the unified development of the nation.

Only when the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is achieved can national sovereignty be completely achieved, can the social and political independence of the South Korean people be achieved, can the unified development of the country and the nation be ensured, and, thus, can the infinite grandeur and prosperity of the country and the nation be achieved.

Our country, once reunified, can further demonstrate to the world its dignified appearance as an independent and sovereign state because of its population and its economic and cultural might.

The WPK is the genuine protector and representative of the interests of the Korean nation and the Korean people. For our party, there is nothing more precious and important than the interests of the country and the nation. Our party's mission is to ensure an independent and creative life for all of the Korean people and to achieve the infinite happiness and prosperity of the nation.

The WPK has struggled for the unified development of the country and the nation, assuming total responsibility for the destiny of the nation. This is why our party has defined national reunification as its greatest mission in order to prevent national division, to end the misfortune and sufferings of our compatriots, and to open a bright future for the nation.

It is the firm and unshaken determination and will of our party to reunify the country in our times at any cost by adopting national reunification as the most important mission assigned to it before the fatherland, the nation, and the times. Proceeding from this, our party has served all of its activity for the sacred national reunification cause.

Indeed, the WPK is the patriotic and nation-loving revolutionary party that loves the country and the nation, treasures the country's reunification and national sovereignty, and is devoted to the future prosperity of the nation.

2. The WPK Is the Great Guiding Force Which Has Set Forth a Correct Line and Policy and Has Led Our People To Carry Out the Cause of National Reunification With Its Tested Leadership.

In order for the party to lead the masses of people to the single road of victory by correctly leading the revolution and construction, it should prepare and set forth a correct line and policy and should skillfully organize and guide the struggle for their implementation.

As in the case of its work in our fields, in the struggle for national reunification, too, our party has set forth a most correct line and policy and has wisely led the struggle for their realization.

In order to achieve the cause of national reunification, the superiority of the reunification forces over the splittist forces hindering the cause of national reunification should be firmly guaranteed.

Under the present condition in which the splittist forces hindering national reunification have formed a united front at home and abroad, the problem as to how to organize and strengthen the reunification forces is precisely a key problem in the realization of the cause of national reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has elucidated the strategic policy concerning the strengthening of the three forces of national reunification on the basis of his deep analysis and discernment of the historic circumstances in which the country was divided by the U.S. imperialists and, consequently, the question of national reunification has brought up a new question.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In order to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, we must struggle to further strengthen the revolutionary force in the northern half of the republic, to vigorously support the just and patriotic struggle of the South Korean people, and to arrange favorable international circumstances for our revolution.

The line concerning strengthening the northern half of the republic -- the chuche strength of the nation -- and the patriotic force of South Korea and concerning strengthening solidarity with international revolutionary forces is not only the correct line which has been based on the scientific analysis of the subjective and objective conditions of the struggle for national reunification, but is also the most revolutionary line that makes it possible to vigorously push ahead with the cause of national reunification by using all possible efforts while decisively strengthening the chuche strength of the nation.

Reunification of our country is not a problem of engulfing someone and of being engulfed by someone but is a problem of completely getting out of the imperialists' (?tyranny) and restoring national unity. Therefore, it is a matter of the internal affairs of the Korean people who should not allow the intervention of foreign forces.

In his early days, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song propounded the basic policy of achieving the country's reunification independently, peacefully, under democratic principles, and without the interference of foreign forces on the basis of his scientific analysis of the essence and character of the reunification question of the country. Thus, the great leader elucidated the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity.

Our party has pioneered the future path of reunification with its tested leadership, firmly grasping the basic line, policy, and principles elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

In order for the party to lead the masses of people to the single path of victory, it should possess the correct leadership art. Through its protracted and arduous struggle, our party has become the experienced and tested party with a tested leadership art which has led the revolution and construction to the single path of victory.

Tested leadership which, no matter what difficult task may arise, can correctly grasp the crux of the task and wage an annihilation battle for it, the ability to analyze the developing trend of the situation with extraordinary ability of analysis and judgment; the ability to boldly and broadly wage operations; the ability of scientific and deep insight which can deeply discern all possible changes in the future; the iron-like will and the revolutionary driving force that can surmount any difficulties and trials without hesitation -- all of these are precisely the outstanding leadership art of our party.

On the strength of these characteristics of its leadership, our party has engraved brilliant milestones in the chronicle of chuche with profound revolutionary principle and extraordinary wisdom and has created the immortal history of national reunification, even though complicated problems have arisen on the road of national reunification because of the criminal maneuvers of the splittists at home and abroad; and even though all sorts of trials and difficulties have blocked the road of our struggle.

The history of our party's struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country has shone as the proud course that has presented the correct policies and ways for national reunification and has vigorously inspired the people to struggle for their realization.

In particular, the 1970's and the period after it were periods full of historic events in the struggle for the resolution of the country's reunification -- the question of our nation -- under the leadership of our glorious party.

What is important in our party's leadership in national reunification is to analyze the trend of the situation with extraordinary insight, to positively arrange North-South dialogue in conformity with the will of the nation, and, thus, to open an epochal aspect in the changing situation.

Proceeding from its national duty to the Korean people and from its sense of mission before mankind, the WPK has consistently made all possible efforts to peacefully resolve the country's reunification question through dialogue and negotiations.

Proceeding from this stand, our party has actively made efforts to arrange North-South dialogue without waiting for a situation favorable for reunification to arrive automatically.

Entering the 1970's, by leading at the vanguard the struggle to carry out the policy for broad-scale negotiations advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his famous 6 August speech in conformity with the demands of the rapidly changing situation, our party saw to it that the high-level North-South political talks were arranged and that, there, the historic 4 July North-South joint statement -- the basic content of which is the three principles for national reunification of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity -- was issued.

Thus, our party brought about a breakthrough in the protracted state of hostility between the north and the South and opened a new aspect in the future of national reunification.

The start of dialogue between the North and the South and the announcement of the North-South joint statement were not only the brilliant fruition of the tested leadership of our party, but were also an epochal event achieved on the road leading toward reunification.

At a time when the South Korean puppet clique was running wild to divide one Korea into two forever by declaring its two Koreas plot as a policy through a so-called special statement in June 1973, our party checked and frustrated the maneuvers of splittists at home and abroad to perpetuate division in a timely manner and, thus, won the great victory of the reunification line over the splittist line by wisely leading internal and external activities to realize the 5-point policy for national reunification elucidated anew by the great leader.

Even at the time when the previous dictator of South Korea was eliminated amid the growing antifascist struggle for democracy among the South Korean people and when the U.S. imperialists and their new stooges intensified anticommunist confrontations, our party not only elucidated the path for the nation's advance by propounding the wise policy of opening the way out for the nation with collaboration, unity, and reunification, but also waged an active offensive in order to tide over the difficult situation with united forces of the North and the South.

Even under the conditions in which a complicated situation has been created on the road of reunification because of splittists' criminal maneuvers in recent years, our party has correctly analyzed and judged the essence of the situation and has sought a clue to the solution of it while intentionally creating possibilities and actively maturing opportunities, thus, opening the aspect of the changing situation to a direction favorable for reunification.

The realization of our compatriotic step for the South Korean flood victims -- for the first time in the history of the national division of almost 40 years -- and furthermore, the opening of a new aspect in North-South dialogue with this step as an occasion are clear evidence of this.

Thanks to such tested leadership of our party, we not only have been able to always take the initiative in North-South dialogue and to deal blows to the splittists' maneuvers and their delaying tactics perpetrated behind the curtain of dialogue in a timely manner, but have also been able to convert the current of confrontation and division into the victory of unity and reunification.

At the same time, we have been able to unfold a new history of national salvation for independence, democracy, and reunification by destroying the anticomunist breakwater of the enemy and by making the strong waves of reunification under the procommunist principle surge at home and abroad.

What is important in our party's leadership in the cause of national reunification is that our party has put forward reasonable means and methods to provide preconditions for independence and peaceful reunification based on the situation created in the country and that our party is vigorously leading the struggle to realize them.

To accelerate the cause of national reunification, we should remove the difficulties and obstacles hindering the cause. This is a summing up of the movements for national reunification since the 1970's.

The urgent question in our country, where tensions have become acute to an extreme degree due to the constant maneuvers of confrontation and war by the U.S. imperialists and the military fascist elements, is whether or not tension and confrontation are relaxed and whether there is peace or war.

Only when this question is resolved at an early date, can our people be prevented from being victimized by a nuclear war and hold sincere dialogue for reunification based on genuine understanding and mutual trust between the North and the South.

To provide preconditions for the independent and peaceful reunification in our country, the unstable armistice should be converted to durable peace and an end should be put to military confrontation and the arms race between North and South.

Proceeding from this, we have repeatedly put forward proposals including one to conclude a peace agreement between Korea and the United States by realizing tripartite talks among us, the United States, and South Korea and one to adopt a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South as well as proposals for North-South parliamentary talks and for talks between military authorities. Some time ago, we put forward a new important proposal to discuss measures to remove the political and military confrontation between the North and the South by holding high-level North-South political and military talks.

All of these peace proposals include our party's broad-mindedness to open a new aspect for the independent and peaceful reunification by removing distrust and confrontation and promoting trust and harmony under any circumstances, and its decision and the will to resolve all the problems by eliminating political and military confrontation.

To provide the preconditions for the independent and peaceful reunification, our party has put forward the anti-U.S. cause for independence based on a scientific analysis of the changing situation since the Kwangju popular uprising and it has wisely opened the path toward reunification.

Today the ringleaders who block the reunification of our country and enforce the fascist repressive rule of the South Korean people are the U.S. imperialist aggressors. With the U.S. imperialists intact, reunification of the nation and democratization of the South Korean society cannot be expected.

The anti-U.S. cause for independence which clearly showed the target of the offensive for reunification is a mighty ever victorious key to opening a new turning point for independence, democracy and reunification.

The South Korean people's anti-U.S. and antifascist national salvation movement has been promoted and strengthened each day amid the trend of the fierce anti-U.S. cause for independence while shaking the U.S. imperialists' colonial fascist rule.

The might of our party's brilliant leadership in providing preconditions for the independent and peaceful reunification lies in the fact that our party is driving the splittists at home and abroad into a defensive position while smashing their maneuvers for confrontation, war, and division with realistic means and proposals to remove the stumbling blocks and obstacles from the path toward reunification.

What is important in our party's leadership in the cause of national reunification is that our party is uniting all the patriotic forces at home and abroad who aspire for national reunification with one trend under the banner of national reunification. National reunification based on national unity assumes the great unity of the entire country as a precondition.

Reunifying the fatherland is a pan-national work and a common cause of the entire nation which can be achieved only when all the people struggle in unity. Proceeding from this, our party has put forward fair and just proposals to expedite national reunification by attaining the great national unity and is energetically leading the struggle to realize them.

It is our party's consistent policy to make those who treasure national reunification as the future of the nation advance hand in hand on the path toward reunification without questioning their past.

Entering the 1980's, our party, which opened a path toward reunification while crushing the barriers of division in the 1970's, wisely organized and led the struggle to realize the plan to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo [DCRK] uniquely advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The plan to found the DCRK elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song at the lofty rostrum of the sixth congress of our party made all the people confidently foresee the bright prospect for national reunification and the future of reunified Korea. It has become a driving force which links the pan-national movements for reunification waged at home and abroad with one target and one trend.

Our party put forward a policy to form such a common national consultative organization as the preparatory committee for founding the confederal state as a practical measure to found the DCRK and other proposals to hold a preliminary conference of representatives of political parties and public organizations in the North and the South as well as representatives of democratic organizations abroad and meetings to expedite national reunification. Thus, our party is recording a new turning point in history by vigorously pushing ahead with the reunification movement by the entire country.

Dialogues realized many times by our party between the compatriots in the North and overseas and among Christians, and the spirit of unity and collaboration with communists which was realized during these dialogues based on the common national ideal have opened a broad path on which the fellow countrymen in the North, the South, and overseas can attain a great national unity under the banner of national reunification.

The patriotic people from all walks of life in South Korea and the patriotic compatriots overseas have joined the powerful trend toward independence, democracy, and reunification, supporting our party's reunification policies. This also opened a bright prospect for our people's struggle for national reunification.

3. The Cause for National Reunification of the Korean People Who Advance Following the Brilliant Guidance of the Glorious WPK Is Ever Victorious and Indomitable.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, had indicated: Our party will establish the sovereignty of the nation on a pan-national scale by accelerating socialist construction, upholding the banner of the chuche idea, and by strengthening the struggle to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation and will expedite the accomplishment of the chuche revolutionary cause.

The WPK has energetically led the national salvation movement for reunification of all the people while checking the splittists' line of flunkeyism, nation-selling, war, anticommunism, and fascism with the reunification line for independence, peace, and great national unity at the head of the pan-national struggle for national reunification.

In particular, our party has realized a reliable guarantee for accomplishing the cause of national reunification through the struggle to implement the basic lines for national reunification. Together with the socialist encampment which has been consolidated to be a solid fortification for national reunification in the northern half of the republic, the South Korean people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification has entered a new stage of development, and the reunification forces are increasing and strengthening at home and abroad. Thus, international circumstances have turned in favor of national reunification. All this makes us firmly foresee the future of national reunification.

All successes attained in the pan-national struggle of the Korean people for national reunification are the brilliant fruition of the outstanding and refined leadership of our party which comprehensively grasped and is leading this struggle.

Our party has made great achievements and obtained abundant experiences in the course of victoriously leading our revolution and the cause for national reunification and has come to have lofty guidance authority and indomitable might.

The authority and dignity of the party of the working class depend on the authority and dignity of the leader [suryong] who is the founder and leader [yondoja] of the party. The lofty guidance dignity of the WPK, our party, is the lofty dignity of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the great leader and the sun of the nation whom our nation is holding in high esteem for the first time in its several-thousand-year history. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's lofty dignity is the loftiest, based on the immortal achievements he has accomplished before the Korean revolution and the history of mankind's liberation.

By advancing along the banner of the chuche idea, holding in high esteem the respected and beloved leader as the great leader, our party has become the dignified party which is vigorously leading the revolution and construction and which can successfully carry out the cause of national reunification -- the long cherished desire of the nation -- by rallying the entire nation under the banner of reunification.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's lofty dignity is the banner of national unity and struggle. It is also the symbol of victory. With the great leader, our party has become the centripetal force that firmly rallies all of the brethren under the banner of national reunification and the driving force that vigorously leads all of the nation to struggle for the cause of reunification.

The lofty leading dignity and prestige of our party, the WPK, is the lofty dignity and prestige attained by most completely and perfectly resolving the problem of inheriting the leader's revolutionary cause.

Today, our party is not only beaming forever as the chuche-type revolutionary party, but has also established the organizational and ideological foundation which makes possible it to complete the chuche cause generation after generation and has firmly established the party's leadership system. Thus, our party has greeted the most glorious era in its development.

There has been no such a time in the past in which the future of our nation was as bright and promising and the brilliant era of a reunified fatherland brilliantly promised as today when the era of glory, in which the road leading toward the final victory of the chuche cause has been pioneered and been brilliantly unfolded before us.

The leading dignity of our party as the guiding force of national reunification finds expression in embracing in its bosom all of the chuche-oriented forces and the patriotic forces and firmly rallying them. Our glorious party has won high trust and absolute support from the people at home and abroad because of the immortal achievements that it has accomplished before the times and the revolution.

The people who have deeply mastered the greatness of our party through their practical experiences firmly believe that the road of national reunification led by the party is the road of victory and glory. They are foreseeing the dawn of national reunification and the brilliant future of a reunified Korea from the party's leadership.

It has become an irresistible aspiration of the nation to uphold our party as the center of national unity and as the guide of national reunification. Today, we still have many difficulties and obstacles in reunifying the country. In other words, the U.S. imperialists who have occupied a half of our country as a colony and military base, have tried not to let it go, like a dog with a lump of meat in its mouth.

The U.S. imperialists have adopted as their basic strategy toward Korea the fabrication of two Koreas, fixing the division of our country and they have cunningly and viciously schemed to implement this strategy.

Under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists, in a bid to find a way for survival in anticommunist confrontation and permanent division, the South Korean military fascist elements have perpetrated all sorts of maneuvers to attain international recognition of their plot for permanent national division.

Under the slogan of a nonexistent threat of southward invasion and under the pretext of security, the puppets have placed South Korea under a state of complete emergency martial law and have arrested, detained and brutally punished the patriotic youths, students, and people calling for freedom, democracy, and reunification with the notorious National Security Law, branding them as leftist-leaning and procommunist elements.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are going to stage the aggressive "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise at a time when our peace proposal to remove the acute political and military confrontation and to open a breakthrough in the peaceful reunification of the country by holding high-level North-South political and military talks has been placed on the calendar. Thus, they have challenged our people's cause of peace and reunification.

The question of reunifying our country has become a very difficult and complicated problem. This is because the U.S. imperialists have occupied South Korea by force of arms and have intensified their maneuvers for division and war. This is also because the flunkeyist, treacherous elements in South Korea are viciously running wild to seek division and confrontation.

Our people's cause of national reunification can be successfully achieved only through the tested leadership of the party.

Our party, the WPK, is the ever victorious and iron-willed party which has been tempered, strengthened, and developed amid the bloody struggle to repel the imperialist aggression forces and to defend the country's sovereignty and revolutionary gains as well as amid the arduous struggle to check and frustrate the maneuvers of splittists at home and abroad to fabricate two Koreas and the struggle to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The WPK is the heart of the Korean nation and the guiding banner of national reunification and the chuche cause. Our people are optimistic about the prospect of reunification and vigorously advance toward reunification. This is because our party not only has illuminated the path of reunification and bestowed upon the people iron-willed strength, courage, and faith, but is also opening the bright future of reunification.

Although the road leading toward reunification is rough, the Korean people, blessed with the tested leadership of the ever victorious WPK, will achieve the historic cause of national reunification without fail by surmounting all sorts of difficulties and trials. There will only be victory and glory in the future of the Korean people who are vigorously advancing along the single road of independent reunification, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's line and policy of national reunification and following the brilliant guidance of the glorious party center.

CHON'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEES ASSAILED

SK191014 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0959 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Pyongyang February 19 (KCNA) -- NODONG SINMUN today lambastes a farce of appeasement and gimmicks to allay public sentiments staged by the Chon Tu-hwan group which has been vehemently criticized and condemned by people at home and abroad for its thrice-cursed torture murder of a patriotic student of Seoul University.

In a signed commentary the paper says:

The South Korean fascist clique set up a "special committee for extending human rights" in the "Democratic Justice Party" and a "special committee for protecting human rights" in the puppet government and jabbered about "extension of human rights" and "measures" at a "coordination meeting".

Whatever "committees" they may set up and whatever rigmarole they may spell out, the Chon Tu-hwan fascist hangmen can never conceal their blood-stained bodies.

Their talk about "human rights" is necessary only to dampen the anti-"Democratic Justice Party" and anti-"government" sentiments of the South Korean people against their bayonet rule, torture rule and prison rule and to mislead the public.

While talking about "human rights", the Chon Tu-hwan clique mobilized over 100,000 riot police to block a memorial service for the patriotic student who was tortured to death by the fascist police. At the "National Assembly" members of the "Democratic Justice Party" pushed aside the demand of the opposition party to form a "National Assembly special committee for human rights" with a right to investigation and framed up socalled "committee" by themselves. It is clear to everyone that the purpose is to keep in secret violations of human rights and brutal torture and murder.

Brutal torture and murder are committed almost every day and human rights of people violated in South Korea not because of the absence of "committees" or "system and law apparatuses" but because of the Chon Tu-hwan military fascist dictatorial system which makes it as a means of its rule to resort to brutal torture and murder.

The "human rights" ballad is not fit for the blood-stained wolfish face of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan.

SEOUL OLYMPICS HEAD SETS SEP DEADLINE FOR DPRK

OW190757 Tokyo KYODO in English 0735 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 19 KYODO -- The new secretary general of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee (Slooc) stressed that September 17 is the deadline for the negotiations with North Korea on the 1988 Seoul Olympics. In a recent exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Kim Ok-Chin, who was in Tokyo to promote the sales of Seoul Olympics official commemorative coins, said if North Korea did not accept the International Olympic Committee (IOC) proposal one year before the opening of the Olympics, it would be physically impossible for Pyongyang to hold the games.

The IOC proposed, in a third round of the sports talks held last June in Lausanne, Switzerland, that Pyongyang stage four out of the 23 official Olympic sport events -- archery and table tennis plus part of road cycling and one preliminary soccer round.

Kim flatly refused Pyongyang's demand for additional sports, saying its ulterior motive is to throw a monkey wrench into Seoul's preparation for the Olympics. According to Kim, the date and other finer points for the fourth round of the sports talks, to resume before this summer as recently agreed to between the IOC and Pyongyang, will be discussed when Slooc officials and IOC executive board members meet April 23.

Commenting on the pending participation in the Olympics of the Eastern bloc countries headed by the Soviet Union, Kim, who inherited the post last December from Yi Ha-u, is confident all the IOC-member countries will come to Seoul.

On the prospect of the bilateral negotiations for sole Japanese broadcasting rights for the Olympics, which will be held in Seoul Monday and Tuesday, Kim said both sides will reach a conclusion this time as they have almost ironed out their differences.

CHON STRESSES READINESS AGAINST NORTH'S MOVES

SK200151 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 20 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Chonju -- President Chon Tu-hwan stressed yesterday that the nation should keep vigilant watch over the north Korean Communists as various kinds of maneuverings to obstruct the 1988 Seoul Olympics are expected.

The residents' network of reporting the existence of north Korean agents to authorities should be intensified to maintain an alert defense posture, he said.

The President made the remarks after he was briefed on the 1987 business programs of the Cholla-pukto provincial administration.

He said that a peaceful power transfer in February in 1988 and the successful hosting of the Olympiad are the national tasks to be achieved without fail "at any cost."

"To this end, social stability is more important than anything else. Therefore, the government should deal sternly with any violences which may affect people's livelihood," Chon stressed.

He went on, "The government should uproot the elements sympathizing with north Korean Communists in order to maintain social stability and upgrade the defence posture."

Afterwards, the Chief Executive visited a boot camp in Nonsan, Chungchong-namdo to encourage soldiers there.

During a tea party for the soldiers, Chon said the purpose of a training camp is to produce good soldiers and to educate them to become good citizens after they are discharged the military service.

PRIME MINISTER NO ON FATE OF DEFECTOR IN JAPAN

SK200555 Seoul YONHAP in English 0535 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP) -- South Korean Prime Minister No Sin-yong said Friday that Japan should allow a North Korean soldier who defected to that country in 1983 to go to Seoul in accordance with "common sense" and international customs. Min Hong-ku, 24, a former North Korean Army sergeant, escaped from North Korea in October 1983 aboard the Japanese freighter Fujisan Maru, seeking asylum in South Korea. Since then, he has been detained in a Japanese camp on charges of illegally entering that country.

The Korean prime minister told reporters he believes that the Japanese Government will deal with Min's defection case in accordance with common sense and international practices because South Korea and Japan maintain friendly ties and both countries belong to the free world. No noted that in dealing with similar cases in the past, South Korea fully respected the free will of defectors, in accordance with international laws and practices and humanitarian causes. Since Min has explicitly expressed his wish to defect to South Korea, No said, it is hard to understand why the Japanese Government has detained him for more than three years.

On Thursday, the Korean Prime Minister reportedly called in Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su to discuss the matter.

A Foreign Ministry official said he did not believe a report that the Japanese Government plans to send Min to a neutral or non-aligned nation with which North Korea has diplomatic relations. Such a decision would have an "undesirable" effect on diplomatic relations between Seoul and Tokyo, he said. The official added that the South Korean Government instructed its embassy in Japan to ascertain the accuracy of the Japanese newspaper reports. The Japanese Government has not yet officially informed the South Korean Government about the latest developments in the Min case, he said.

He said that South Korean Foreign Minister Choe reiterated Seoul's position on the matter at the 14th annual meeting of Korean and Japanese cabinet members, held last December in Tokyo. The official said the Min called for his early release when he met with South Korean officials and filed a petition with the Korean Embassy in Japan expressing his intention to go to Seoul.

NORTH KOREAN DEFECTOR HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

SK200418 Seoul YONHAP in English 0318 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 20 (YONHAP) -- "I am firmly convinced that people can live freely in South Korea, where the freedoms of press, assembly and publication are guaranteed," Kim Man-chol, the medical doctor who escaped from North Korea last month, said Friday.

Kim, 47, led 10 family members in an exodus from North Korea to Japan aboard a small boat. They reached Japan on Jan. 20 and eventually settled in Seoul.

In a press conference here, Kim said he came to his conviction about freedom in South Korea while visiting shopping centers and marketplaces in Seoul, watching television, following the press coverage of his defection and cultivating acquaintances with several South Korean families.

Kim and his 10 family members—six males and five females, ranging in age from 13 to 68—arrived in Seoul on Feb. 8 via Taiwan, ending three weeks in Japanese custody. They fled North Korea from the port city of Chongjin on Jan. 15 aboard a 50-ton fishing control ship, seeking political asylum in a "warm country in the South." It was the first escape of a Korean family from North Korea since the Korean war (1950-53).

Kim said that they finally decided to settle in Seoul "in response to the warm love from our brethren in the South." That decision was made in the final stages of negotiations involving Japan, South Korea and Taiwan to determine their final destination. "I believe the decision is the best one we could make," Kim told reporters.

Press freedom is non-existent in North Korea, Kim implied. "We were brainwashed for a long time," he said. "At first, we thought that if we lived in the South, we would eventually be killed by North Korean agents operating in the South."

Asked about his motive in escaping from North Korea, Kim said that his family records, which he once saw by bribing a pertinent official, made him determined to flee North Korea. His family records said that Kim's father came from South Korea for "dubious purposes," that his brother was sentenced to a 25-year prison term for criticizing the Soviet Government, that the brother died in a labor camp, and that his younger brother was given a 20-year jail sentence for an anti-revolutionary act and was executed. The younger brother, who graduated from Pyongyang Fine Art College, was criticized for drawing a portrait of Kim Il-song on the floor, and threw away the portrait, Kim said recalling the record.

"The family records made me resolved to flee North Korea," he said. "I had seriously planned to defect since July 1983, when I as a physician was assigned to a coastal control ship," Kim said. "While serving as the ship doctor, I attentively learned how to operate and repair the engine and how to steer the boat," he continued.

"I was on duty on Jan. 14," Kim said. "I took my family members, including my in-laws, on board and reported to the high authority that we were going to a small island some 150 miles away from Chongjin port to conduct a land survey for my in-laws farming there, then headed South," Kim said. "We were sailing at a speed of 17 knots toward Niigata Prefecture, Japan, at 10 a.m. on Jan. 15 when we had engine trouble. After that, we drifted until we were spotted by a Japanese Maritime Safety Agency patrol ship," Kim added.

Asked about people's daily lives in North Korea, Mrs. Choe Pong-nye, Kim's wife, said that the people live on food rations distributed every 15 days; the rations comprise rice (30 percent) and other grains (70 percent), she said.

"Two days worth of food is deducted from the rations for war preparations, Mrs. Choe said. "Meats, cakes and sweets are rationed only on such national holidays as Kim Il-song's birthday and the national founding day. People in the North suffer from malnutrition." Pointing to the deformed legs of her daughter, Kwang-suk, Mrs. Choe said that chronic malnutrition caused the physical handicap.

Women in the North are forced to work at various construction sites, Mrs. Choe added. As soon as they graduate from high school, they are sent to construction sites against their will. They cannot sleep well because they are always pressed to work hard at construction sites and at home.

Kim said he is sure that his family can lead "a free and happy life" in the South. In fact, they are expected to receive more than 500 million won (nearly 600,000 U.S. dollars: one dollar is worth about 855 won) and apartment flats as rewards for their heroic act of seeking freedom in South Korea.

DJP SETS DEADLINE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

SK191305 Seoul YONHAP in English 1245 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 19 (YONHAP) -- The ruling Democratic Justice Party Thursday set the deadline for the operation of the special committee on constitutional revision at the end of April. In a meeting of its constitutional revision committee, the ruling party also decided to complete constitutional revision process, including a national referendum on the constitutional amendment, by the end of June.

It was the first time that the ruling camp has come up with a specific timetable on the issue of constitutional reform.

The special panel in the National Assembly has been deadlocked since last September as the rival parties remain sharply in disagreement on the form of the government under the new constitution. The government party demands the establishment of a parliamentary system of government while the main opposition New Korea Democratic Party insists on a presidential system of government.

Rep. Choe Mun-sik, chairman of the special panel, saying that it will take a considerable time to complete the whole process of constitutional revision, noted the fact that only two months were led for discussion on the issue in his committee. Choe called on the main opposition party to agree to resume the operation of the committee without delay. "If the main opposition party refuses to comply with the ruling party's call, we cannot but conclude that it has no intention of rewriting the constitution based on compromise," he said.

MONTSAME LAUDS GORBACHEV SPEECH AT MOSCOW FORUM

OW190201 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in English 1701 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 18 February (MONTSAME) -- A MONTSAME political observer writes:

The culminating point of the international forum "for a nuclear-free world, for the survival of mankind" has become the speech of the Soviet leader M. Gorbachev.

CPSU General Secretary M. Gorbachev persistently upholds the idea of a new way of political thinking which is paving its way in international relations of our days. Being an accumulation of the entire past experience of diplomacy, it has a firm grasp of today's vital requirements and such a cardinal problem of mankind's existence as the question of its survival. The graphic vividness of the Soviet leader's words set off the main idea of his speech to the effect that it is time to put an end to the alienation of politics from universal forms of human morality. In particular, M. Gorbachev pinpointed the importance of trust -- one of the components of human ethics.

The integrity of the world, about which the Soviet leader constantly reminds us, is a fact, and very hard at that. This integrity was certainly felt by millions and millions of people for whom modern communications furnished the possibility to be part of the Moscow forum -- a most important event which discussed the vital problem of learning the art of living peacefully side by side.

The Soviet foreign policy concept of eliminating nuclear weapons in the visible future, already by the beginning of the third millennium, M. Gorbachev underscored, stems from the very essence of the revolutionary reorganisation in the USSR.

These words are an invitation to the other side to compete peacefully in the interests of overall human progress, an invitation which proves the genuine peaceableness of the Soviet Union in particular and socialism as a whole, and which renders senseless the imperialist propaganda bent on slandering the new social formation.

SODNOM RECEIVES DEPARTING BRITISH AMBASSADOR

OW200145 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1455 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 19 (MONTSAME) -- D. Sodnom, chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers, today received A.G.R. Butler, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ambassador to the MPR, in connection with the completion of his diplomatic mission.

Present at the meeting was D. Tsolmon, deputy chief of an MPR Ministry of Foreign Affairs department.

GOALS, TASKS OF MASS DEFENSE WORK MONTH SET

OW181401 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1445 GMT 14 Feb 87

[Text] An explanation of the defense goals and tasks of the socialist fatherland, and the propagation of Lenin's behests and party theses on the need to strengthen the country's defense capabilities are the main practical activities of the MPR Association for Promotion of Defense (APD) during the traditional month of mass defense work. It begins in the MPR on 15 February.

The month is timed to coincide with three anniversaries: the 66th anniversary of the MPA, the 69th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, and the 60th anniversary of the USSR's DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for Promotion of the USSR Army, Air Force and Navy], said J. Gurragchaa, chairman of the APD Central Council and MPR pilot-cosmonaut, in an interview with a MONTSAME correspondent. A wide range of measures to popularize the activities of the USSR's DOSAAF, which recently celebrated its anniversary, will be held during the month. "Military Service, the sacred duty of all young men" will be the motto of meetings between youths, servicemen who excelled in combat, political training, and revolution, and army veterans. Showings of documentary films on cooperation between Mongolian and Soviet soldiers have been arranged.

Various competitions between youths of conscription and preconscription age in technical and applied military sports; passing of the GTO [ready for labor and defense] test standards; and "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" sports activities will be organized during the month.

The last 10 days of the month will be devoted to the 66th anniversary of the MPA. Youth hikes to memorials of revolutionary and military glory of the Mongolian people and its army will be organized during these days.

The month of mass defense work will promote the (?mobilization) of youth collectives to worthily meet the 66th anniversary of the Mongolian people's revolution and the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and to increase their contribution to strengthening the MPR economic and defense might.

OFFICIALS ATTEND HEALTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

OW181345 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian 1438 GMT 13 Feb 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 13 Feb (MONTSAME) -- A conference of leading workers of public health services has been held, which discussed issues of intensification of work in implementing resolutions of the 19th MPRP Congress in the public health services field.

C. Tserennadmid, MPR minister of health, and other speakers noted some positive improvements in the work of medical institutions and scrutinized in detail the new tasks of public health services workers as demanded by social development.

D. Tsebegmid, deputy chairman of the MPR Council of Ministers, spoke at the conference and emphasized the great significance of learning from the Soviet experience in organizing public health services.

BURMESE TROOPS ATTACK OPIUM WARLORD'S OUTPOST

BK190131 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Burmese troops attacked opium warlord Khun Sa's Shan United Army outpost in Burma opposite Muang District of Mae Hong Son Province on Tuesday, Border Patrol Police sources told the BANGKOK POST yesterday.

The sources said fighting was still going on yesterday around the Ban Hua Ha outpost and clashes have been reported elsewhere on the border between Burmese forces and other rebel groups.

Five battalions of Burmese troops from the 55th Division have been thrown into battle against Khun Sa's Shan rebels, the sources said.

Meanwhile Thai forces on the border in Mae Hong Son were placed on alert yesterday as a precaution against a possible spillover of the fighting. Troops have been ordered to turn away intruding forces and to disarm rebels who flee across the border to escape the fighting.

Several mortar and artillery shells have landed in Tambon Pa Pong of Muang District in the past few days and the fighting is expected to intensify, the sources said.

Burmese forces are currently locked in battles with several minority groups including the Kayah, Kachin, Arakan, Karen and Shans at various spots near the Thai border.

Field reports said on Sunday Burmese troops under the commander of Maj Soe Min launched an assault on a Kayah outpost in Ban Pa Mon. On the same day another contingent of Rangoon troops led by Maj Maew Yoon attacked another Kayah redoubt at Ban Huey Or and a third unit attacked a Kayah stronghold in Ban Huey Pong.

The reports said on Monday Burmese forces seized and burned down a Kayah village and two camps as well as a Kachin barracks.

Twenty-two Kayah and Arakan rebels escaped to Ban Nam Piang Din in Mae Hong Son's Muang District on Tuesday. They were disarmed and taken to a temporary holding camp in Ban Huai Pachai.

A border intrusion was reported on Tuesday when about 150 Burmese troops in hot pursuit of Kayah rebels crossed the unmarked border into Ban Sop Huai Lao in Huang District. The Burmese later withdrew to their side of the border after being asked to do so by Thai troops from the Lop Buri-based Special Force Centre.

Sources said more than 1,000 people including some rebels had fled to Thailand since the fighting broke out at the weekend.

About 400 Kayahs are now seeking refuge in Tambon Mae Yuan of Mae Sariang District with 500 Kayah, Pa-o and Wa civilians in Ban Huey Pa Jai and Ban Mae-or.

Some 50 wounded Kayah rebels, including a self-proclaimed minister, are being treated in Ban Huai Hai. Sources said they had all been disarmed and were receiving treatment on humanitarian grounds.

Offensive Continues

BK200209 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Chiang Mai -- An army-trained ranger was killed and four others taken captive by Khun Sa's Shan United Army (SUA) in a clash along the Thai-Burmese border in Chiang Rai Province yesterday, border patrol police [BPP] said.

The fighting, which broke out close to the border in Pa Sang District, was the first between Thai forces and the Shan rebels in the current offensive against insurgents.

Outnumbered and outgunned by the rebels, the ranger company of the Third Army headed for Ban Mae Salong in Mae Chan District after losing the five troops, the BPP source said.

On the other side of the border, Burmese troops overran bases controlled by the Wa and Kayah separatists ethnic minority groups, killing 13 rebels, the BPP said yesterday.

Five Wa and eight Kayah rebels have been killed in the three-day Burmese government offensive on four insurgent groups in Burma near the border of Mae Hong Son Province, Lt Col Panya Krupthong of the border patrol police said.

Ten Burmese soldiers have died in the fighting, he said.

Police sources said that the Border Patrol Police in Mai Ai District in Chaing Mai had asked Shan United Army chiefs near Doi Lang to free the four captured troops and the body of the ranger.

He said the SUA had agreed to hand over the captives and the dead body to Thai authorities at the side of the clash in Pa Sang District. However, it demanded that a Kuomingtang villager from Doi Mae Salong lead the Thais to the site.

The SUA is at odds with Kuomingtang irregular troops based at Mae Salong.

The source said that six rebel groups -- the Kayah, Pa-o, Arakan, Kachin, Muser and Wa -- have united in countering the Burmese offensive.

He said that about 300 Burmese soldiers with 600 porters were facing Kayah rebels just across the Pai River and that another contingent of 700 Rangoon troops and about 1,000 porters were locked in battle with Kayah rebels just opposite the Tambon Pang Mu in Muang District of Mai Hong Son.

A third unit is fighting the Shan rebels at Hua Ha, the BPP source added.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH POLAND

BK191252 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1121 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK February 19 -- A protocol on trade exchange for 1987 between the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea and the Polish Peoples Republic was signed in Phnom Penh Wednesday.

Signing for Kampuchea was Phang Saret, deputy minister of home and foreign trade and for Poland was Holmut Fleoth, vice minister of foreign trade and head of the Polish delegation.

Under the protocol, Kampuchea will export crepe rubber, timber, furniture, soybean, sesame and other farm products in exchange for anti-rust paint, soldering-rods, sewing-machines, boat engines, electrical apparatus, raw materials for medicine, and other consumer goods.

By procuration for the Kampuchean and Polish Government, the two deputy ministers also concluded on the same day an important document on the creation of the Kampuchea-Poland inter-governmental commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation. The volume of trade exchange between the two countries in 1986 amounted to 2.1 million roubles.

The delegation left Phnom Penh this morning after a three-day official friendship visit to Kampuchea. While in Kampuchea, the delegation called on Ho Non, member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and minister of home and foreign trade, visited the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide, the former royal palace, and the national museum in Phnom Penh.

VONADK: BATTALION DEFECTS TO DK FORCES 18 FEB

BK200236 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] A battalion of patriotic Cambodian soldiers from the 13th Regiment of the 4th Division at a position west of Me Toek River on western Leach battlefield [Pursat Province] defected to the DK [Democratic Kampuchean] National Army on 18 February at 1200 [0500 GMT] to fight against the Vietnamese enemy. They brought along an 80-mm mortar, a 60-mm mortar, 10 B-40 and B-41 rocket launchers, and 23 AK's. This is the result of the patriotic spirit and resolute will to struggle of this battalion of patriotic Cambodian soldiers from the 13th Regiment of the 4th Division.

The DK National Army welcomed these compatriots in the continued struggle against the Vietnamese enemy and provided them clothing, food, various material, medicine, and financial reward as well. [passage omitted]

KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN VISITS CHAMPASSAK PROVINCE

BK191132 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Vientiane, February 19 (KPL) -- General Secretary of the LPRP CC, Kaysone Phomvihan, on Feb 11 has visited and met with over 1,600 representatives of the administrative committees, mass organizations and people of various ethnic groups of 4 villages in Songkhon District, the southern Savannakhet Province.

In his speech, General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan expressed his satisfaction and hailed the all-round achievements scored by the local administrative committees and people of these 4 villages in the national defence and construction during the past. He also urged the people to upraise their ability and efforts in the national defence and the development of the economy, agriculture, forestry work, irrigation, cooperatives, education and social affairs for paving the way to the building of a new socio-economic and cultural life of a new rural area and so as to educate a new socialist man based on the spirit of one for everybody and everybody for one. Thus to build up a new rural area and develop it step by step.

THAI 'IMPERIALISTS' OBSTRUCT IMPROVING RELATIONS

BK191544 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0430 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Unattributed commentary: "Acts of Obstructing and Undermining an Atmosphere of Improving Lao-Thai Relations Will Certainly Be Defeated"]

[Text] Since late November last year following the visit to Laos by a high-level Thai technical delegation led by Arun Phanuphong, secretary to the prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to hold talks with a high-level technical delegation of the LPDR in Vientiane, the atmosphere of friendship between the two countries has been creatively maintained. Phenomena serving as initial conditions leading to an improvement in relations between the two sides have satisfactorily emerged. Examples were the friendship boat races, art and literary exchanges, providing conveniences for the exchanges of visits between the peoples of the two sides, strengthening the trade relations which has led to the reduction in number of certain types of goods banned by the Thai officials from 179 to 61, and so forth. Thai mass media of many branches have also carried reports and given views in a way that promotes and creates an atmosphere of fraternal and neighborly relations between the two countries.

All these are in line with the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries, who have visited and carried out trading with each other since ancient times. The progress in improving the relations is reaching the point where a high-level technical Lao delegation led by Souban Salitthilat [deputy minister of foreign affairs] has prepared to make a trip to Thailand to continue talks with the Thai side in Bangkok in the near future to discuss means to settle remaining problems of common interest.

At the time while the two sides are making joint efforts to further improve their bilateral relations, certain military personnel in the ultrarightist group which represents the interests of the imperialists and reactionaries have even tried to obstruct and delay the progress in the improvement of the neighborly and fraternal relations between the two countries. This group has acted as active servants of the imperialists and reactionaries. They have aimed to reverse the situation to an atmosphere of tension again.

The incident that they have deliberately created with a view to sabotaging the improvement of the relations between two sides is the fabrication charging Vietnamese soldiers in Laos with killing 43 Lao people of the Mong tribe in the coastal area of the Mekong River in Ban Mai Village, Pakse District, Bolikhamsai Province, an area opposite Nong Khangkha village in Nong Deon Canton, Bung Kan District, Nong Khai Province, Thailand. The report on this fabrication was published by Thai paper DAILY NEWS in late December and the PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY [KPL] has already been authorized to deny this slanderous charge. Later, at 1445 on 7 February 1987, a Thai L-19 aircraft violated the airspace of the LPDR as far as 5 kms into Savannakhet Province. Regarding this, the LPDR Foreign Affairs Ministry informed Waiphot Suwanmoli, Thai charge d'affaires in Vientiane, of this matter on the morning of 13 February during which the Thai side was warned to take strict measures to prevent the occurrence of similar incidents; otherwise, the Lao side will resort to using measures it deems appropriate.

Each time such a provocative incident occurs, the Lao side tries to practice restraint by not using violent measures in retaliation. This is because the Lao side wants to maintain the atmosphere of improved relations which has just emerged with a view to restoring and normalizing the fraternal and good-neighborly relations between the peoples of the two countries. This is the consistent foreign policy of the LPDR, the policy which conforms with the aspirations of the peoples of Laos, and Thailand.

The acts by which military personnel in the Thai ultrarightist group obstruct and undermine the atmosphere of promoting Lao-Thai friendship will only be opposed and denounced by progressive public opinion. At the same time, this evil intention will be also denounced by the Thai people as well as by peace-loving people and their dark schemes will certainly be defeated.

PASASON 18 Feb Commentary

BK200404 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 18 Feb 87

[PASASON 18 February commentary: "Let Us Join in Creating an Atmosphere of Lao-Thai Friendship"]

[Text] An atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding, and good neighborliness has been optimistically developed while improvement of Lao-Thai relations has been underway, particularly since talks were held by high-level technical teams from the Thai and Lao Governments in late November last year. The Lao and Thai peoples, who shared the fine ancient traditions of friendship, are very happy with this development as can be seen from the mutual exchanges of goods, visits, and literary and cultural shows, including the organizing of a joint boat race. These are not chance occurrences but fruit of the great efforts made by the two sides to resolve the problems between the two countries on the basis of the interests of the peoples in the two countries in accordance with the spirit of the 1979 Lao-Thai joint communiques.

However, this development has run counter to the interests of certain groups of people in Thailand, who are bent on undermining and destroying relations between the Lao and Thai peoples. The intention of these groups of people to destroy the Lao-Thai relations has been expressed in various acts of distortion through the Thai press. For example, the Thai press made a slanderous fabrication against Laos, accusing Lao soldiers of firing on Thai patrol boats in the Mekong River. In late December last year, a Thai daily cooked up a story saying that Vietnamese soldiers in Laos had carried out a suppression drive against and killed 43 Lao citizens of the Mong tribe in an area on the bank of the Mekong River opposite Nong Khangkha village, Nong Deon precinct, Bung Kan District, Nong Khai Province [in Thailand].

Another incident which aroused extensive interest among the public took place on 7 February when a Thai L-19 aircraft intruded into Lao airspace in Savannakhet Province as deep as 5 km. The incident was interpreted as either the plane had lost its direction while in flight or was on a reconnaissance mission. If the flight was lost, this claim appears to be untrue for the visibility on that day was very clear.

These incidents have aroused suspicion in the minds of the people about the sincerity of the Thai side in improving Lao-Thai relations in accordance with the aspirations of the peoples of the two countries and the spirit of the two Lao-Thai joint communiquees signed between the prime ministers of the two countries in 1979. The Lao side and people of all tribes always adhere firmly to the spirit of the two joint communiquees in resolving peacefully all problems in the relations between Laos and Thailand on the basis of just interests of the peoples in the two countries.

In face of the maneuvers undertaken by the elements bent on undermining Lao-Thai relations, it is necessary for the Lao and Thai peoples to heighten a sense of vigilance, to stand ready at all times to smash all of their cunning schemes, and to contribute together to creating a healthy atmosphere for improving the mutual understanding between the Lao and Thai peoples and, in particular, favorable conditions for the forthcoming talks between the two sides, aimed at normalizing the Lao-Thai relations.

PASASON ON ECONOMIC UNITS' RIGHTS TO MASTERY

BK200849 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Feb 87

[PASASON editorial: "Firmly Grasp the Rights to Self-Mastery of Grass-Roots Economic Units" — date not given]

[Text] To build grass-roots economic units into firm socialist outposts, a correct realization of the right to self-mastery in carrying out business production must first of all be grasped. In principle, the right to self-mastery of the grass-roots economic units consists of four new elements, namely self-mastery in purchasing equipment and materials and selling products, self-mastery in making all-round plans, self-mastery — with the consent of the higher level — in managing property and capital funds, and self-mastery in being a legal entity entitled to take legal responsibility on their own.

Grass-roots economic units enjoy the right to self-mastery in purchasing equipment and materials and selling products according to the scale of business prices and on the basis that their economic relations with other economic units conform to the policy and laws as well as the old mechanisms. These relations of goods transfers and payments are carried out in accordance with the instructions of the higher level. Grass-roots economic units enjoy the right to self-mastery in mapping out all-round plans, balancing them, and defining and implementing them in maintaining relations with other economic units on the basis of the all-round supervision and inspection by the higher level. Even though the higher level does not specify the exact timeframe, a number of expectations approved by the higher level must be fulfilled under reasonable conditions. Because grass-roots economic units are granted the right to self-mastery by the higher level in managing property and capital funds on the basis of conducting an inventory and estimating total value, they must enforce the right to self-mastery in managing their own finances, such as paying debts and acquiring loans on their own. They must be accountable for any profits or losses on their own; correctly fulfill production and financial obligations to the state; and ensure uniformity in the interests of individuals, the collective body, and the entire society. Grass-roots economic units enjoy the right of being a legal entity and accept state supervision and inspection.

The principled contents of the right to self-mastery by grass-roots economic units have encompassed views and principles of economic management aimed at doing away with centralized, bureaucratic, state-financing apparatuses. In carrying out correct trading relations in accordance with policy and the law and in replacing the system of goods transfers and payments, first of all the grass-roots economic units must be studious in acquiring and exploiting sources of raw materials by signing contracts themselves. In the past, when a shortage of raw materials occurred, they simply stopped work, wrote a report to the higher level, and then waited. At the same time, they must discover consumer requirements and fulfill them accordingly. They must please the consumers. They cannot afford to stand idly by or to remain on the defensive as was the case in the past goods transfer and payment mechanism. Only by doing this will they be able to correctly utilize goods-money relations. The tobacco company, the beer and soft drinks company, the timber exploitation and processing company, the transport company, the repair work company, and any other companies have already begun moving in this direction and must continue to consolidate it more firmly. The nationwide planned management principles will be more effectively implemented because we have devised plans from the grass-roots level through the higher level's economic relations by bypassing routine work. Regulation of plans on relations is also stricter, and the drafting of plans is more thorough. In the past, plans were drafted along one direction and in accordance with higher level instructions. Unrealistic plans were initiated by the higher level without clear definition, could not be put into actual realization, lacked equilibrium, yielded low levels of efficiency, and were arbitrarily changed with no one taking responsibility. The most important thing is that grass-roots economic units must take the initiative in safeguarding property and evaluating their efficiency because they must do the accounting themselves. If they make a profit, they stand to gain. But if they incur losses, they must be held accountable. Therefore, these rights must be linked to responsibilities and interests at all time. They must be linked with obligations. The higher level will no longer sponsor or refinance them.

In the legal aspect, grass-roots economic units with the right to self-mastery must be held accountable for abiding by the laws. In the past, they were under the legal protection of the higher level. Because the complete realization of the right to self-mastery by grass-roots economic units, which is carried out under the condition that the management system is unified nationwide, is a major new principled issue, it urgently calls on the grass-roots level to appropriately organize economic, political, and organizational forces to enforce these rights effectively. On the other hand, the higher level is encouraged to modify the method of planning and policies on economic leverage and to modify cadre organization and work control methods.

Only by applying the right to self-mastery with grass-roots economic units as mentioned above will we be able to correctly outline long-term directions to advance ahead step by step without turning back to the old mechanism.

THAI ARMY COMMANDER TO VISIT LAOS 'NEXT MONTH'

BK200205 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 20 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut will go to Laos possibly at the end of next month to improve ties, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Army deputy spokesman Col Anuson Kritsanaseran told a press conference at the Supreme Command that Gen Chawalit's impending visit is in response to the Government's policy to bolster diplomatic ties with Vientiane.

Gen Chawalit's visit will be an effort to reestablish closer relations between the two armies.

The army chief's trip to Vientiane will follow an official visit to Bangkok by Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat from February 28 to March 3.

The spokesman said the situation along the Thai-Lao border was improving and there have been only minor incidents. In a recent incident, a Thai patrol boat on duty on the Mekong river was fired upon by Laotian troops. No one was wounded.

Col Anuson also denied an accusation by Laos that the Royal Thai Air Force planes violated Laotian airspace seven times in the past month.

OFFICER WOUNDED IN CLASH WITH SRV INTRUDERS

BK190925 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] According to the Thai-Cambodian Border Liaison Office, at 0930 on 13 February while Lieutenant Wicha Thaiko was leading his 7-man unit on a patrol from its base in Ban Sanro Changan, Tambon Thapsadet, Ta Phraya District, Prachin Buri Province, the unit clashed with a Vietnamese-Heng Samrin army unit about 2 km inside Thai territory. After a 20-minute clash the intruders were pushed back into Cambodia. Lt Wicha stepped on a land mine during the clash and suffered serious injuries.

AUTHORITIES ANGERED AT REFUGEE MISTREATMENT CHARGE

BK201000 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 20 Feb 87 pp 1, 32

[Excerpt] Thai authorities this morning reacted angrily at a human rights report on refugee camps which claimed widespread robbery, torture and rape by Thai security forces as well as armed Khmer gangs in the border area.

Deputy Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry Somphan Kokilanon said that most of the problems occurred between Khmers themselves. He described incidents involving Thais as being very few and said that legal action had always been taken against the offenders.

Supreme Command Spokesman Lt-Gen Wichit Bunyawat said that there had been almost no reports on robbery, rape and torture in recent months. He commented that the refugees are often better protected than Thai villagers living along the border.

Mr Sompian said that most of the LCHR's [expansion unknown] information had come from a researcher named L. Santoli who began collecting data about two years ago. After Santoli had written his report, the LCHR contacted the Thai Government and asked to send representatives to look at the true situation.

The Thai Government agreed to this and made arrangements for the representatives to talk to Khmer refugees and senior Thai officials involved with displaced persons.

The committee then said it would make some changes in some aspects of the report. Mr Sompian said that he believed that the committee had not been able to make all the changes discussed due to problems with deadline.

"The Thai Government has the duty to protect the displaced Khmers and when there are problems with crime between Khmers and Thais we have to take action," he said without elaborating.

He described incidents of torture, rape and robbery involving Thais as being very few and said that anytime they happen, there are established legal steps to follow, which have been done several times.

On the humanitarian side, Mr Sompian said that Thailand should be regarded in the big picture since it has tried to protect the refugees and encourage them to return to their own country whenever there is no danger from the opposite side.

He asked: If the problem is widespread, then why do the aid agencies not speak up on the matter. He said the problem may well exist, but the number of cases is very low. The Government also has taken action whenever it happens.

Every time U.S. representatives arrive, the Thai side arranges for them to visit the border camps to allow them to see for themselves. Foreign Ministry permanent secretaries from Mr Asa Sarasin to Mr Kasemsamoson Kasemsi have repeatedly raised the matter in discussions with the visitors to allow them to understand the problem, he said.

Supreme Command Spokesman Lt-Gen Wichit said that there had been almost no reports on robbery, rape and torture in recent months. Most of the robbery had been between Khmers, he said.

Whenever problems arise, action is always taken, he said, adding that Thai security authorities have taken good care of the refugees, often better than for Thais in the border areas. Thais at the border have to work and often have to dodge stray shells and are even worse off than those in the refugee camps.

If the committee thinks Thailand is not treating the refugees well then it should call on other countries to accept these refugees, since in addition to easing the burden on Thailand it will also receive praise for its humanitarianism, which will be better than just criticising Thailand without the basis of facts.

He asked: Why not make similar accusations against the Hun Samrin regime and the Vietnamese occupiers of Kampuchea who are the real originators of the problem.

"Why does the committee not call on Vietnam to set up a safety zone so the refugees can live safely. Also, the Khmers will be able to return home," he said. [passage omitted]

GENERAL TERMS POLITICAL SITUATION 'UNSTABLE'

BK200207 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Feb 87 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Commander of the Special Warfare Command Lt Gen Wimon Wongwanit yesterday described the current political situation as "unstable."

The commander of the Lopburi-based elite force made the brief remark after chairing a news conference on the holding of the "Special Warfare Day" to be held on February 24.

When pressed by reporters to elaborate on the word "unstable," Lt Gen Wimon retorted: "Unstable just means unstable."

Lt Gen Wimon is the third army leader to speak up about the political situation.

Last Saturday, Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut said most of the existing political parties in this country are preoccupied with protecting business interests of their financiers and MPs are mostly businessmen. On Tuesday, Assistant Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong added that the situation (particularly conflicts among government MPs) has reached the "unbearable point" and so the military has to speak up.

MP Piyanat Watcharaphon, secretary general of Ruam Thai Party, yesterday welcomed the military's comments about the political situation. He said the military could do more by joining the opposition bloc in calling for an early opening of Parliament next month.

Piyanat said he will call on Gen Chawalit to urge him to support an early opening of Parliament which is initially scheduled to start a new session in early April.

Gen Chawalit could ask senators to join the opposition bloc in signing a petition calling for the opening of Parliament early next month, Piyanat said.

Senator Ahmad Khamthetthong said yesterday he and four other senators who represent labour will sign the petition.

Ahmad he and other labour leaders in the Senate believe that Parliament should be opened as soon as possible so that more work could be done in the new session. [passage omitted on university panel discussion of the role of the military in Thai politics]

APP: SHEVARDNADZE TO VISIT IN 'NEXT FEW WEEKS'

BK191606 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 19 (AFP) -- Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is to make an official visit to Vietnam during the next few weeks, a Soviet source said here Thursday. The source said that the Soviet diplomat could arrive during the first two weeks of March.

The Australian Government announced Thursday that Mr. Shevardnadze would visit Australia from March 3-5.

A Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed Thursday that the Soviet foreign minister would be visiting Vietnam but declined to say when.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ON CABINET RESHUFFLE

OW191515 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 19 -- A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, Trinh Xuan Lang, called here this afternoon a regular press conference. It was attended by a large crowd of Vietnamese and foreign correspondents.

Answering questions about the recent Vietnamese cabinet reshuffle, Trinh Xuan Lang, who is also head of the Foreign Ministry's information and press department, pointed out that it was a major, important change aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the state body in furtherance of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress. It was also a renovation as proposed by the congress.

On the present ties between Vietnam and Australia, Trinh Xuan Lang noted that their ties of friendship and cooperation continued developing. Australia has tried to contribute to restoring peace and stability in Southeast Asia. This included its proposal for holding an international tribunal to try the genocidal Pol Pot clique, he said.

On the results of the recent meeting between Vietnamese and U.S. specialists in charge of the Orderly Departure Program (ODP), the spokesman said that the meeting was aimed at solving questions rising during the implementation of the program such as the leaving of those who were already interviewed by the U.S. side but had not yet received entry visas into the United States, the simplification of the entry procedure, etc. The meeting was helpful and the two sides agreed to meet again soon, he added.

Doan Khue New Chief of Staff

BK191526 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 19 (AFP) -- Vietnam's vice-minister of defence, General Doan Khue, has replaced its new defence minister, General Le Duc Anh, as Armed Forces chief of staff, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry here said Thursday.

Spokesman Trinh Xuan Lang also said outgoing defence minister General Van Tien Dung would either retire or be given a new post like other ministers who had lost their jobs in a government reshuffle this week.

A well-informed Vietnamese source said Gen Dung would be given a civilian post and give up all his duties in the armed forces.

Gen Dung, who led North Vietnamese forces to victory over the south in the Vietnam war, has been criticized in recent months. He lost his seat in the communist party Politburo in December and subsequently the defence portfolio, but retains his membership of the party Central Committee.

The new defence minister, who was responsible for anti-U.S. resistance in the south during the war, until recently commanded Vietnamese forces in Cambodia. It is not known who the new commander in Cambodia is.

Gen Khue became a Politburo member in December. He used to command the fifth military region centered on Danang in the north.

REDUCTION IN ARMED FORCES TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

BK200847 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 20 Feb 87

[By Gilles Campion]

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 20 (AFP) -- Vietnam, which has the third-largest standing army in the world, plans to gradually reduce its strength over the next few years to improve its efficiency, a well-informed Vietnamese source said Friday.

Vietnam has more than a million men under arms, less than only the Soviet Union and China. The source said the planned reductions would not begin before 1988 and would be linked to the evolution of the situation in Indochina.

Vietnam has an estimated 140,000 troops stationed in neighboring Cambodia to fight Cambodian resistance guerrillas seeking to overthrow the pro-Vietnamese government in Phnom Penh. Vietnam has pledged to remove all its troops by 1990.

An estimated 40,000 Vietnamese soldiers are stationed in Laos.

"The principle of such a reduction has been adopted, but we still have to work out the details, notably the target we wish to reach," the source said. He declined to estimate what percentage of the army would be cut.

"The number of draftees and officers will diminish year by year to get younger blood into the forces and to improve quality," the source said.

The source said the number of years Vietnamese men between the ages of 18 and 27 were obliged to serve would not change. Since 1983, draftees have had to spend three years in the army, four if they are attached to specialist units or are in the navy. University graduates or members of ethnic minorities have to serve only two years.

"Future drafts will also be organized into construction brigades which will maintain or build railroads, bridges and public buildings and manage rubber plantations," the source said. The Vietnamese Army already performs tasks that are not strictly military and soldiers are often engaged in agriculture, notably in Cambodia or along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

The Army's monthly magazine said in an article in September that it was necessary to "correctly settle the relationship between quantity and quality." "If this is not correctly settled, we might have a numerous but weak force," TAP CHI QUAN DOI NHAN DAN said. "Our solution must be an appropriate number of troops of very high quality." It added: "The issue of troops' participation in building the economy is asserted as a long-term and unchanged strategic task as well as a pressing task in the country's current economic situation."

The upkeep of more than a million soldiers has put a heavy burden on the economy in a country where much of the population is still lacking the basics more than 10 years after the end of the Vietnam war.

Soldiers and officers based along the Sino-Vietnamese frontier, where there have been frequent clashes since the two countries fought a brief war in 1979, frequently complain of the difficulty in obtaining adequate food and clothing. "In terms of weapons, we can fill our needs thanks mostly to Soviet aid," a Vietnamese source said. "But when it comes to uniforms and food, we can't expect a swift improvement because the rest of the population has its own material difficulties."

The deprivations have affected morale and several senior officers have recently paid the price. During the past few months the defense minister, the chief of staff and the director of the army's General Political Department have all lost their jobs.

General Van Tien Dung, the "Victor of Saigon," lost the defense portfolio and his seat on the Communist Party Politburo, keeping only his party Central Committee post.

Chu Huy Man, the director of the General Political Department, was not so lucky. He was stripped recently of all his party and army posts.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DIRECTIVE ON ELECTIONS

BK190955 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers has issued a directive governing the elections of the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels in 1987.

The election of representatives to the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels will be held together with the election of the Eighth National Assembly on the same day in April 1987.

With a spirit of changing conception and work method and through the experience acquired from the previous elections, the chairman of the Council of Ministers recently issued a directive urging various administrative echelons to go by the law on election of the people's councils dated 26 December 1984 and meticulously study Directive No 3 dated 20 January 1987 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and Resolution No 779 NQHNN-7 dated 6 February 1987 of the Council of State on election of the National Assembly to most satisfactorily direct the election of the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels and ensure that it meets the following requirements.

— In the process of organising the election, it is necessary to ensure real democracy and see to it that voters have an accurate conception and can exercise their right as masters to voluntarily participate in the election, especially the selection and recommendation of worthy persons for standing in the election, and personally go to the polls to help build people's councils at the district and village levels that are capable of fulfilling their duty as the organs of power of the state in the localities.

— Correctly enforce the law on election of the people's councils at various levels while satisfactorily preparing for the election day, motivating the masses to participate in the movement for revolutionary action, and implementing the state plan for the first 6 months of this year to gradually score achievements in the economic and social fields. It is necessary to make the election day truly a festive day that manifests the right to mastery of the voters, and to foster unity, enthusiasm, and trust among the people aimed at contributing to the implementation of the sixth national party congress.

In preparing for the election, it is necessary to pay attention to satisfactorily carrying out the following major tasks:

1. Arrange for voters to study the law on election, the criteria of people's councillors and the responsibility of voters in the election. Respect the right to participate in recommending persons for standing in the election of every voter through consultations between the VFF committee and various mass organizations.

2. Arrange for the people's committee to scrupulously review its performance before the people's council, and the people's council to review its performance until the end of its term in order to point out what has been done and what has not yet been done for voters to make suggestions. Satisfactorily organize meetings between candidates and voters to create favorable conditions for voters to get to know the persons they want to choose and vote for. Meanwhile, candidates must inform voters of what they plan to do during their term of office, if elected.

3. The criteria for and composition of people's councillors should be patterned after the criteria for national assembly deputies as outlined in Directive No 3-CTTU of the Political Bureau and Directive No 36-CTTU date 16 February 1984 of the party Central Committee Secretariat. They shall be appropriately applied to each locality to ensure that truly qualified and capable councillors will be elected. It is necessary to ensure that the number of candidates in each electoral unit will be greater than the number of councillors to be elected so that voters can choose from among the candidates those they trust to be the most qualified. It is necessary to guarantee the voters' democratic rights in making their selection and casting their ballots. All acts of restriction and coercion against voters are strictly prohibited. Following the elections, it is necessary to urgently review them and publicly announce the election results in accordance with the electoral law.

4. It is necessary to make good preparations for the election of people's committees at various levels in accordance with the law and Circular No 66-HDBT dated 20 April 1984 of the Council of Ministers; and to guarantee the rights of people's councillors to nominate candidates, stand for election, and cast their ballots. Attention must be given to selecting and assigning skilled and experienced clerical committee members in order to ensure observance of the law and state administration procedures.

The people's councils and people's committees at all levels that are in charge of supervising the elections must be given immediate training in state management by schools of administration at various levels.

5. Army units, state organs, work sites, state farms, state forests, and schools belonging to central sectors shall participate in the elections at the localities where they are situated.

The various ministries, state commissions, and organs directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers must work out programs of propaganda and education activities to encourage cadres, workers, and employees of units under their management to actively participate in the National Assembly and people's council elections.

NGUYEN THANH BINH ATTENDS HA BAC MEETING

BK191502 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] A Ha Bac radio station correspondent has just cabled a report which says: On 19 February, the delegation of National Assembly deputies from Ha Bac held a meeting to review and draw upon experience gained during the last term of office. Comrade Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and National Assembly deputy from Ha Bac Province, attended the meeting.

Fully aware of its role and responsibilities before the voters, the delegation of National Assembly deputies from Ha Bac has in past years actively striven to grasp firmly the feelings, aspirations, and suggestions of the masses. Right at the start of its term of office, the delegation established a system whereby periodic meetings with the people would be held on the 15th of every month; and the meeting schedule was widely announced throughout the province. As of February 1987, the delegation has held 73 such meetings, receiving 730 citizens who came to present their feelings and aspirations and file their complaints. The delegation has joined the Ha Bac Provincial People's Committee in resolving 50 cases effectively.

During the last term of office, the delegation organized 18 meetings with representatives of voters at various local electoral units to solicit their views before attending National Assembly sessions and reported on the results of National Assembly sessions to a total of 2,000 voters.

Upon reviewing their work, the deputies noted that some shortcomings still persist. For instance, contact with voters has been established only for form's sake, meetings with people have not been improved upon so as to ensure realistic results, and some suggestions raised by citizens during such meetings have not been fully and promptly acted upon.

The delegation of National Assembly deputies from Ha Bac discussed programs and measures, prepared a report to be presented to voters, and encouraged the voters to enthusiastically participate in the elections of the Eighth National Assembly and the people's councils at the district, village, and corresponding levels scheduled to be held on 19 April.

PAPER REPORTS DOCUMENT URGING MILITARY SHAKEUP

HK191047 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 87 pp 1, 7

[By editor in chief Amando Doronila]

[Text] A top-level shake-up of the Armed Forces has been recommended to President Aquino to stem a "leadership crisis" in the military.

The recommendation is contained in a secret assessment made by a significant segment of the intelligence community concerned with the leadership and discipline problems in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]

The document is the basis of the report published by the 'CHRONICLE' two days ago, indicating that there was a move within the military seeking the retirement of Gen. Fidel Ramos as chief of staff, for what is seen as his "weak and vacillating" leadership.

This report elaborates on the document, highlights of which, together with reaction from other military leaders, have been published by the 'CHRONICLE'.

The document warns: "If the leadership problem goes unresolved then disciplinary problems will escalate, weaken the military in dealing with valid threats, and opens the door to political zealots to manipulate segments of the military."

According to our intelligence community sources, the document was initiated by retired generals who form an influential elder statesmen role in the military. The assessment is widely shared by members of the officer corps down the middle-level ranks, our sources said.

The document, entitled "The Proper Role of the Armed forces of the Philippines," was apparently prepared on the eve of the Feb. 2 constitutional plebiscite. But it foreshadowed ratification of the Constitution. The Constitution was ratified with a 79 percent "yes" vote, giving President Aquino a mandate to govern for the next five years, and according her the legitimacy that had been challenged by rebellious factions within the military.

The intelligence assessment said that after the ratification of the Constitution, "coups and mutinies" may still be probable, but emerging political institutions, control mechanisms over the military embodied in the basic law, and the generally increasing complexity of society will make such moves increasingly difficult to mount.

The report said the leadership and discipline problems "need to be immediately addressed."

"This requires reshaping the military both environmentally and structurally," the summary of the report said. "The environment should project a very wide arena within which to ventilate valid issues and reduce plotting. This requires greater governmental sponsorship of political activity to promote open discussions.

"Structurally, the initial screening process for officers and enlisted men needs to be reexamined. The training programs will have to be reoriented. Promotions must be firmly placed within the context of good performance. Ineffective officers will have to be attracted to retire.

"Finally, the leadership of the military must be placed in the hands of a low-key, no-nonsense individual who exacts rigid discipline in the implementation of plans and policies. The times demand change; history produces different leaders for different time and issue context."

The term "low key" apparently refers to General Ramos' high profile role following the February 1986 revolution which toppled the Marcos regime.

The report said that while the new Constitution "mandates some changes in the armed services, the problem of leadership at the top of the officer corps must be addressed immediately. A hardhitting disciplinarian is needed immediately after the Constitution is ratified, and this person must provide the backdrop needed by the civilian leadership to effect nationwide programs. The chief of staff must focus on strategy, policy-making and institution building.

The report said the proper role of the Armed Forces must be analyzed "in the context of civilian government supremacy. This is the first and foremost principle which must be accepted and adhered to by the Armed Forces. But in order to expect this context, the civilian government must have strong and stable political institutions, popular support, and effective control mechanisms over the military.

It is said that recent events had pointed to "basic insecurity in the military's rank and file." This insecurity is projected by large segments in the military on an "ideological basis (anti-communism); and smaller segments on a political basis (pro-Marcos, pro-Enrile or anti-Aquino)."

It said that the political basis of insecurity "is often masked by a spurious ideological basis in order to attract a greater number of adherents. Unfortunately, the sources of insecurity have been consolidated by politically correct moves of reconciliation programs, cease-fire negotiations, and ongoing human rights violation investigations.

"The inability of various Armed Forces segments to adjust to civilian supremacy vis-a-vis the strong support (at least in public) by the chief of staff for this civilian government implies a leadership and discipline problem.

"If the leadership problem goes unresolved, then disciplinary problems will escalate, weaken the military in dealing with valid threats, and open the door to political zealots to manipulate segments of the military."

The report said the leadership crisis" has taken the following forms, based on perceptions:

1. Loss of confidence (apparently from middle echelons and down). This stems from (a) "Inability to achieve quickly internal reforms. Practically nothing has been accomplished in reorganizing combat units and command structures. Major service commanders are limited to administrative functions.

(b) "Inability to move up in the promotions ladder. There are still a number of extenuees, and recent demands appear aimed at the chief of staff."

(c) "Perceived discrimination in promotions. Those officers and men in combat units and field assignments feel that recent promotions have been disproportionately given to desk officers and men."

(d) "There is a perception that the chief of staff should explain more carefully and vigorously the seeming lenient attitude towards the Communists, both in treatment during the ceasefire negotiations and during human rights investigations; and persuade the political leadership to take a more even-handed approach."

The report said that the issue of inexperience derives from the belief that combat experienced deserved better rank, function, and status within the Armed Forces.

It called for "reshaping the Armed Forces, environmentally and structurally." On the environment level, it urged the Government to continue to encourage the formation of political institutions, providing the opposition with overt avenues of dissent, and thus discourage plotting.

Military personnel should be encouraged to develop political inclinations, run for public office, thus channeling their zeal into the political arena, the report said.

Structurally, the Armed Forces need to be reorganized and reoriented, the report said. The Government must cut down elitism built by the Philippine Military Academy by establishing academies in the Air Force and the Navy.

"Reorganizing the Armed Forces requires recognition of well-qualified young officers," the report said. "The Government may examine the possibility of devising a one-time early retirement package addressed to generals and senior colonels."

The report concluded: "The threat of a coup in order to extract concessions from the Government is not acceptable. The Government must encourage dissent, but not at the expense of foreclosing courses of action contrary to what the military demands. Once a decision is made by the civilian government, the entire Armed Forces must fully support that decision. The key strategy is to increase the complexity of our society and reduce the military's role as arbiter of social conflict."

RAMOS WARNS COUP PLOTTERS TO ABANDON 'PLANS'

HK200324 Hong Kong AFP in English 0313 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Manila, Feb 20 (AFP) -- Philippine Armed Forces chief General Fidel Ramos Friday warned any coup plotters to abandon their plans, saying they had "lost their chance" with the ratification of a new Constitution.

The warning came two days after newspapers here reported a new right-wing plot to assassinate top military and government officials and attack provincial military camps and utilities timed to coincide with the February 25 anniversary of the uprising that swept President Corazon Aquino to power last year.

The general told a press forum here that he did not take a reported assassination plot against him seriously, but was taking precautions and urging the people to be vigilant. "If there are any being plotted right now, I'm warning them that their chances of success, and they have not yet been rewarded with success, have greatly diminished," he said.

The MALAYA and MANILA STANDARD newspapers reported Friday that the countdown for the latest coup plot had begun, and military officers who participated in aborted attempts in the past had been seen in Manila.

Politicians loyal to deposed President Ferdinand Marcos and military men have organized elite "death squads" to assassinate civilian and military leaders, the MALAYA newspapers said, quoting unnamed military sources.

Renegade soldiers attacked military installations and took over a private television station in Manila in the last coup attempt a week before the February 2 plebiscite where the new constitution was overwhelmingly ratified.

"They lost their chance already if I may say, and if they attempt it, well maybe not just us but the people themselves are going to act against any such attempt," General Ramos said. "It does not do anybody any good to attempt a coup, especially after the installation of our new constitution," he added. The cigar-chomping general is credited with thwarting at least three coup attempts by politicians and military factions identified with Mr Marcos and sacked Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Asked if there was any instance in the past when coup attempts almost succeeded, he said: "There was never any situation when the plotters were close to success."

On the coup plotters' purported list of officials topped by his name, General Ramos said: "I wouldn't be here in this program if I took the assassination plots seriously, although I do make some preparations."

"We never discount the possibility of a coup," he said. "However, the probability is something else. All that I can do at this stage is to call on people to be more vigilant."

Plotters Assured of Funds

HK191250 Queson City BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Feb 87 p 24

[By reporter Joel D. Lacsamana]

[Text] Plotters of the recently uncovered coup said to be staged on or before Feb. 25 are assured of almost limitless funds and other logistical support from cronies and supporters of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, military sources said yesterday.

Despite this, Defense Secretary Rafael M. Ileto yesterday brushed aside reports of another "destabilization exercise" by the remnant forces of plotters of the foiled Jan. 27 coup attempt.

"They can always try," Ileto said. "But whether they attempt to do it, that's another question. Whether they'll succeed, that's another question."

Military sources, however, said many of the financial backers had funded similar coup attempts dating back to July of last year.

They said these financiers were monitored by government to have withdrawn late last month P48 million from at least two major banks in Makati.

They declined to name the banks.

This amount was supposed to partly finance the failed coup attempt last Jan. 27, the same sources said, adding that only about P5.5 million was actually disbursed to the major coup participants.

Of the P5.5 million, about P847,000 had been disbursed allegedly for the support of families of soldiers who are now facing processing procedures preparatory to court martial proceedings, they said.

The other day the same military sources quoted an intelligence report that the latest coup plan was radically altered.

The modified plan totally abandoned Metro Manila -- the strategic location of the country's major military camps, communications facilities and other vital installations -- as their battleground.

Instead, the remnant forces of the Jan 27 coup, led by "misguided military elements," anticomunists and Marcos loyalist groups, are allegedly planning to concentrate their attacks on "key vulnerable" targets in Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Eastern Visayas, and the Lanao provinces in Mindanao, the sources said.

These targets, according to the sources, were selected on the basis of perceived strategical and political strengths as power bases of known Marcos loyalists and as strongholds of heavy anticomunist sentiment.

The same sources, however, did not discount the possibility that the P48 million budget, withdrawn from the banking sector a week before the implementation of the Jan. 27 coup, could merely be "base funding" intended for the military (officers, soldiers, and their families) and the armed operations involved in the destabilization scheme.

"We have not yet fully assessed the possible additional millions of pesos involved in the funding of support operations handled by the civilian supporters of the coup participants. The P48 million may just be the tip of the iceberg," one of the sources, a ranking military officer, admitted.

As regards arms and ammunition, the same source said the military plotters "have the capability to try anything they want."

The source added that military intelligence had monitored and accounted for some 10,000 highpowered firearms belonging to the "misguided" military elements.

The source clarified that many of these arms were not purchased recently.

There seems to be little evidence that the financial backers of the overall destabilization scheme have directly financed the purchase of firearms for the military plotters, the source said.

"They've these large caches of firearms even before the February revolution last year," the sources said.

The sources added that the military plotters of the latest coup are well aware of the fact that invoking Marcos's name "is their meal ticket" and to do otherwise would just as quickly dry up their current ample source of funds.

MANILA POLICE ON 'ALERT' AGAINST LOYALISTS, NPA

HK191239 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Feb 87 pp 1, 10

[By Vic Vega]

[Text] The Western Police District (WPD), with its 10 precincts and 20 sub-stations in Manila, was ordered yesterday to be on red alert following an intelligence report that Marcos "loyalists" or New People's Army (NPA) urban guerrillas are planning to stage attacks on the various parts of the city.

Brig. Gen. Alfredo S. Lim, WPD superintendent, issued the order on recommendation of Capital Region Command (Capcom) chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre.

Police and military sources said Marcos "loyalists" particularly those involved in the Jan. 27 takeover of Channel 7 are planning to bomb government buildings and other installations.

The rebels, on the other hand, were reported to be planning to attack gasoline stations particularly the big fuel depots in Pandacan and Sta. Ana.

Aguirre has organized "Oplan Vigilante [Operation: Plan vigilante]," composed of Capcom troopers and Metro Manila policemen to counter both threats.

Reports said "loyalists" who earlier threatened to stage another coup before the end of the month are planning to undertake the plan outside Metro Manila. However, other reports said they might conduct sabotage activities inside the metropolis to destabilize the government.

In another development, Aguirre ordered police personnel yesterday not to wear camouflage fatigue uniforms in Manila.

In his order to them, the Capcom chief said soldiers or police wearing the said battle uniforms in public places will be arrested and questioned. Aguirre clarified, however, that troopers assigned at Malacanang and its vicinity are allowed to wear these uniforms.

ILETO SAYS TRUCE PROVIDED VALUABLE INTELLIGENCE

HK191307 Hong Kong AFP in English 1244 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Manila, Feb 19 (AFP) — A 60-day cease-fire with communist rebels that collapsed two weeks ago aided counter-insurgency intelligence work, the Philippines defense chief said in an interview broadcast here Thursday. "We granted a lot during that cease-fire because they moved around, they showed their wares, they even indicated where they live," Philippine Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto said in a pre-taped interview with government television.

Analysts said Mr. Ileto appeared to be referring to National Democratic Front (NDF) negotiators and their provincial counterparts who represented the communist underground in talks with President Corazon Aquino's government.

Meanwhile, state-run television reported that Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos accused communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas of using civilians as "human shields."

Some 150 NPA guerrillas held several construction workers hostage in northern Bubog village Wednesday until their company paid a 10,000 pesos (500 dollars) ransom, the broadcast statement by Gen. Ramos said. The rebels looted nearby villages stealing cash, jewelry and guns, and kidnapped a local official's son who they used as a shield to deter pursuit, the statement said. The kidnapped boy had yet to be released, it added.

Accusations against the rebels followed a military report late Wednesday that 85 soldiers were restricted to camp for alleged involvement in the killing of 17 people in northern Lupao town following an encounter between communist and government forces there last week.

In another development, Manila Police Chief Brigadier General Alfredo Lim said he had alerted his men against possible terrorist attacks during next week's anniversary celebrations of the revolt that toppled former President Ferdinand Marcos. Security had been doubled around gasoline depots and public buildings following intelligence reports that urban terrorists had targeted these areas, he said.

The official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY Thursday quoted Mr. Ileto as saying that some of the 400 soldiers who participated in a failed military mutiny last January had been paid for their role. The report did not say how much the soldiers had received or who had paid them.

NPA HOLD ISABELA VILLAGE RESIDENTS HOSTAGE

HK171247 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] It was reported that communist rebels held an entire village in Bubog, Isabela hostage after killing a leader of that barangay. According to Benjamin Aguilar, provincial commander of the Constabulary in Isabela, troops and helicopters have been dispatched to that locality. More than 120 communist rebels have occupied the area.

Details and more reports of NPA attacks from Grace Ligayo at Camp Aguinaldo.

[Begin Ligayo recording in English] Reports reaching Camp Crame identified the two slain PC [Philippine Constabulary] soldiers as Constable Juanito Rabanan of the Zambales PC-INP [Integrated National Police], who was stabbed to death by NPA terrorists in Barangay Lipay, Santa Cruz, Zambales, and Constable First Class Muhamin Sintani of the Nabilistan Assistance Center of the PC Company 245, stationed in Labo, Camarines Norte, who was shot to death by members of the sparrow unit in Sitio Nabilis, Bitan, Barangay Dumagmang Labo. Sintani's M-16 rifle, with 14 magazines of ammunition and 1 rifle grenade, were taken by his assailants.

One of the slain barangay captains was identified as Moises Droilan of Barangay Bubog, Santo Tomas, Isabela. Colonel Benjamin Aguilar, Isabela PC provincial commander and police superintendent, reported to Major General Renato S. de Villa, PC-INP chief, that some 120 fully armed NPA rebels held as hostages the entire barangay populace after killing the barangay captain.

Aguilar reported that four PC teams of the Isabela PC-INP Command immediately went to reinforce the government troops dispatched to the beleaguered barangay. The troops were supported by two helicopter gunships from Regional Command 2 headquarters based at Camp Arturo, Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

The other slain barangay captain was Angel Rubio of Barangay Mangga, Ojas, Albay who was shot to death by four NPA rebels inside his residence. His wife, Zenaida Rubios, who was in the kitchen, was also hit by a stray bullet and confined at the Albay provincial hospital.

Grace Ligayo reporting. [end recording]

NPA Rebels Escape

HK190145 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] In Santo Tomas, Isabela, 120 NPA rebels who occupied Barangay Bubog have slipped through a military cordon [words indistinct] civilians [words indistinct] human shield against military attack. The civilians prevented the troops from assaulting the resisting retreating rebels. The hostages were later released by the insurgents upon reaching the outskirts of the barangay. Cagayan Valley Commander Brigadier General Manuel Avila said the rebels are now being pursued by armed troops [words indistinct] the areas of Santo Tomas.

In Davao City, the military has suspended operations against communist terrorists [word indistinct]. Lieutenant Colonel Franco Calida, Davao Metrodiscom [Metropolitan District Command] chief, warned that no [words indistinct] will be entertained after the deadline [words indistinct] bear firearms. Calida said all rebel hideouts within the metropolis have already been pinpointed and are under close surveillance. He said [words indistinct] these hideouts until all the rebels are wiped out.

SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS, 2 REBELS CAPTURED IN RAID

HK191351 Queson City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] PC [Philippine Constabulary] Company 136 captured subversive documents from communist rebels in a raid in [place name indistinct], Nueva Ecija. The documents contained plans to provoke chaos during the three-day celebration of the February revolution starting on 25 February. The documents were seized in Barangay (Capino) on Thursday. Two NPA regulars were captured. Captain Cesar Valencia of the PC Company 136 said the minutes of the meeting of the NPA's financial reports, collection and disbursement [words indistinct] of the PC headquarters, and group pictures of the rebels were among those included in the documents.

NDF IMAGE SAID TO SUFFER DURING CEASE-FIRE

HK191321 Queson City BUSINESS DAY in English 19 Feb 87 p 22

[Text] Communists insurgent, who in the week since the end of a 60-day cease-fire have returned to fighting government troops, suffered a major political loss during the truce, in the view of diplomats and military observers.

At the same time, the government of President Corazon C. Aquino, in marked contrast to widespread perceptions at the start of the cease-fire last December, has become increasingly convinced that it has won the public opinion battle for the support of the middle class, officials and analysts said.

As a test of that renewed public support for the Aquino government, the military is embarking cautiously on a new offensive against the insurgents.

"They (the communists) made some early gains in propaganda," said one Asian diplomat, "but towards the end of the cease-fire, they seemed to be losing it."

Defense Secretary Rafael M. Ileto, referring to the frequent television appearances by the communist negotiators in the initial days of the cease-fire, said they were "a novelty early on." But in the end, he said, "The majority of Filipinos are anti-communists."

The shift in perception came about gradually, analysts said. Two months ago, the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines opened its first legal office in Manila and its top spokesmen were treated as folk heroes by journalists and admirers on the left.

One diplomat based in Manila likened the situation to that in the United States in the late 1960s, when the "radical chic," such as antiwar demonstrators and militant Black Panther activists, were regulars in certain social circles.

Shortly after the truce took effect Dec. 10, the communists' three chief negotiators, Saturnino Ocampo, his wife Carolina Malay-Ocampo and Antonio Zumel, began appearing on television talk shows, speaking to packed coffeehouses, and holding almost daily press briefings for reporters in their new office at the National Press Club building.

For the communists, the increased public exposure during the cease-fire provided an unprecedented opportunity to reach out to the middle class with an appealing political agenda: land reform, increased local ownership of corporations and an end to foreign military bases.

One regional communist commander, Leonico Nabong, interviewed last month in the southern city of Cagayan de Oro before the cease-fire ended, said: "The advantage (of the cease-fire) is that we can reach out to the people and present the program of the National Democratic Front. Before, they thought we were monsters and terrorists and everything else."

But in the end, the left won few middle class converts. Some analysts suggested that their rhetoric alienated some potentially sympathetic supporters. In one sense, they said, the radical left tried to put a moderate face on what is essentially a Marxist doctrine.

Their methods also raised concerns. On one popular weekly television talk show, for example, Ocampo conceded that communist rebels were responsible for the brutal slaying of a well-known politician in Northern Luzon.

Ocampo justified the murder by saying the politician, David Puzon, "had many blood debts, or crimes, against the people." Luzon, he said, "represented what is considered by the revolutionary forces as a class enemy."

Said one knowledgeable West European diplomat: "That was Satur's only mistake. They corrected it and never repeated it. But that, I think, did worry a lot of middle class people."

He added: "I think they concluded at a certain stage that they had got as much as they were going to get out of the cease-fire, and got out of it."

Another factor that would explain the communists' abrupt termination of the peace talks is the government's concerted effort to court rebels into surrender by offers of amnesty, resettlement and some cash for the weapons they turn in.

There is no evidence that the rehabilitation plan induced large numbers of rebels to surrender. But the left cited the rehabilitation program as one of the key reasons it was breaking off the talks.

With the communists walking out of the peace negotiations, and the government repeatedly appealing for them to return and work within the framework of the newly approved Constitution, it suddenly appeared as if the left, not the government, was the intransigent party, analysts said.

The communists may have lost the war for public opinion, but the military is not ready to say openly that its side has won. They have embarked on their new military offensive so cautiously, in fact, that they are not prepared to call it an "offensive," preferring the label "active defense."

MILF, NPA MEETING NOT SEEN AS THREAT TO TALKS

HK191347 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Regarding the reported alliance between the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front] and the NPA, Central Mindanao Command chief Cesar Tapia said: According to intelligence reports, there was a meeting between representatives of the MILF and the CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] in Agusan. However, Tapia assured that this would not endanger the autonomy talks tomorrow in Zamboanga City.

[Begin Tapia recording in English] We do not expect a problem in that area [words indistinct]. They have their followers mostly in the central Mindanao side, that is Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, and part of Lanao. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Tapia also said that they have already made the necessary security arrangements to ensure the security of government and Muslim negotiators. However, he said it was possible that fighting might erupt if Misuari follows through with his earlier statement that he and his men would invade Zamboanga City. [Tapia recording indistinct]

Meanwhile, everything is ready for peace talks between government and Muslim negotiators in Zamboanga City tomorrow. MNLF representative Zain Jali said he would present a seven point agenda on political and economic issues. Zain Jali explained the postponement of the talks, which were supposed to have started today. [Zain Jali recording indistinct]

MNLF FORMALLY SUBMITS AUTONOMY TERMS DOCUMENT

HK200731 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT 20 Feb 87

[By Cecil Morella]

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Feb 20 (AFP) -- Moslem rebels submitted to Philippine officials here Friday a formal document stating their terms for ending a 14-year-old separatist struggle in Mindanao and other southern islands.

Leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the rebel group involved in the talks, declined to give details, but one of their lawyers indicated the document sought political autonomy for at least 22 provinces.

The Moros are a Moslem minority of an estimated four million to five million in this largely Roman Catholic nation of 56 million. Oil-rich Arab countries have backed the Moros, whose campaign peaked in the early and mid-1970's.

MNLF lawyer Didagen Dilangalen also said the MNLF wanted their guerrilla army, estimated by officials to number more than 20,000, turned into the official peacekeeping force of the areas to be granted autonomy.

MNLF chief negotiator Habib Mujahab Hashim shook hands with government panelist Agapito Aquino, President Corazon Aquino's brother-in-law, as he presented a sealed envelope containing the document at a seaside hotel in this mixed Moslem-Christian city on western Mindanao. "The success of the negotiation now lies in the continued trust and sincerity of the Philippine Government," Mr Hashim told an audience composed mostly of unarmed MNLF members and supporters. Mr Aquino pledged to study the document but withheld comment. "I have absolutely no doubt about the sincerity of our president to seek a just and lasting peace in Mindanao," Mr Aquino said.

Asked about the contents of the document, Mr Dilangalen told AGENCZ FRANCE-PRESSE the MNLF wanted to expand the provisions of the 1976 Tripoli Accord signed between the MNLF and former President Ferdinand Marcos, ousted one year ago. The pact granted full autonomy to 13 provinces. At a news conference later, Mr Dilangalen confirmed that the document defined which areas they wanted covered by autonomy, and specified the disposition of the MNLF forces if the proposal was implemented.

Mr Aquino said "I can always surmise" the areas which the MNLF wanted to be placed under autonomy, saying this included Mindanao and its satellite islands Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-tawi, and Palawan.

The proposal apparently clashed with the new Philippine Constitution, which spells out political autonomy for "Moslem Mindanao," a term which officials consider applicable to only five southern provinces with Moslem-majority populations.

Almarin Tillah, a proxy for chief government negotiator Aquilino Pimentel, said the government would "play it by the ear," and would leave the definition of the autonomous areas to the new Congress which is to convene in July after elections in May.

Armed government troops guarded the lobby and surroundings of the plush Lantaka Hotel where the talks were held. It was the panel's second formal meeting in the country following preliminaries in Jeddah and an initial round of talks in Manila last week.

The talks followed reports Thursday that eight members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), an MNLF splinter group, were killed in a clash with MNLF men on Central Mindanao. The MILF has spurned Mrs Aquino's peace offers.

Mindanao overall military commander Brigadier General Cesar Tapia said here Friday that the incident in Ampatuan town had no effect on the talks, calling it more of a "family feud" that was not approved by the groups' leaders.

He said he has sent troops to the area "to attempt to physically separate them" because "quite a number of families" have fled the area of the fighting.

The general said the MNLF continues to train its rebels in at least 36 camps in the southern Philippines, but he and MNLF guerrilla commander Abdul Sahrin said this did not violate the cease-fire between the two camps.

The MNLF Reformists, a smaller rebel faction, boycotted Friday's meeting after failing to get representation on the Moro negotiating panel. The government is urging the factions to unite and negotiate as one in order to ensure a lasting solution to the centuries-old Moro problem in case of a negotiated settlement.

The MNLF, which lowered its demand from outright secession to autonomy in previous talks, reiterated Friday that it would only agree to bring in the other two factions if they recognized the MNLF as the legitimate representative of the Moros in the talks.

More MNLF Terms

HK171509 Queson City BUSINESS DAY in English 17 Feb 87 p 20

[By reporter Tara S. Singh]

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) headed by Nur Misuari said yesterday it is the "sole legitimate organization which is recognized to negotiate with the government."

In a press conference held at the National Press Club Habib Mujahab Hashim, head of the MNLF-Government peace negotiations joint commission, said this clarification is needed to erase the impression that the negotiation between his group and the government is a three-cornered war.

Two other splinter groups — the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the MNLF-Reformist headed by Dimas Pundato — want a separate negotiation with the government on the Mindanao problem.

Hashim told newsmen that the MNLF will demand at Thursday's negotiations in Zamboanga City that "talks should not be limited to the formation of an autonomous region as provided for in the new Constitution."

"We do not recognize the new Constitution as a revolutionary movement," he stressed.

According to Hashim, the basis of the MNLF and the government negotiations should be the Tripoli Agreement, which provides that the MNLF headed by Misuari is the sole organization which will deal with the government.

The Tripoli Agreement, forged during the Marcos regime, provides that 13 provinces in Mindanao will comprise the autonomous region. While under the new charter, only eight provinces in Mindanao will be under the jurisdiction of the autonomous region.

He said the MNLF wants this problem settled before the new Congress is convened.

"We do not want to divide Mindanao. We cannot see any reason why President Corazon C. Aquino cannot declare the whole of Mindanao together with Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Palawan as a full autonomous region, short of independence," he said.

"We want President Aquino to constitute the whole of Mindanao as an autonomous region by proclamation and not wait for the new Congress to legislate it," Hashim added.

Asked what the MNLF option is if this demand is rejected, Hashim replied with a grin: "In case of rejection, we can exercise our last option — this is war."

Hashim said the Misuari group has adopted an open-door policy on the reconciliation with the MILF and the Fundato group.

"I hope we can reach a common stand because being divided is counterproductive," Hashim said.

Hashim explained that the policy of accommodation and reconciliation with the splinter groups is based on their recognition and acceptance of the MNLF headed by Misuari as the sole legitimate organization to represent the Bangsa Moro people.

The MNLF also said it will ask the government to shorten the negotiation period from 90 to only 45 days.

"We can finish our job easily within that period," Maj Gen Ismael Abdurahman, a member of the MNLF negotiating panel said.

The MNLF said it wants full autonomy for Mindanao so that "we, the Muslims, can be partners in the development of our natural resources and equally represented in the government."

The government panel is headed by National Affairs Secretary Aquilino Pimentel Jr as chairman and cause-oriented group leader Agapito "Buts" Aquino and Norberto Gonzales as members.

2 LUPAO MASSACRE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO AQUINO

HK191353 Queson City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] President Corazon Aquino ordered Colonel Pete Juachon to compare investigations with Nueva Ecija Governor Noli Santos regarding the encounter in Lupao, Nueva Ecija on 10 February killing 17 civilians. Here is Tony Bernal for the full details.

[Begin Bernal recording] Juachon and Santos did separate investigations on the incident and submitted separate reports to the president. The president wants a comprehensive report showing all the angles of the case. She noted the differences of the two reports. Presidential military adviser General Jose Magno said Santos' report is much clearer and more detailed. There are, however, similarities in the reports: The NPA's sojourn in Sitio, Padlao from 2-10 February; the two-hour fight between the rebels and the 14th Infantry Battalion causing the death of 17 civilians, 1 lieutenant, and the injury of 10 civilians; the civilians admitting they did not report the presence of the NPA's out of fear. Meanwhile, Magno assured that all those who survived including relatives of the victims are being given the necessary help. [end recording]

Aquino To Visit Site

HK200459 Queson City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0330 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] President Aquino is scheduled to go to Lupao, Nueva Ecija, tomorrow to personally look into the probe of the massacre of civilians allegedly committed by soldiers.

The president is going to Lupao to confer with local officials from the Central Luzon region, among whom will be Pampanga Acting Governor Bren Guiao.

Meanwhile, Nueva Ecija Acting Governor Noli Santos welcomed the president's personal interest in the case. He said the soldiers involved in the massacre [words indistinct] attacked unarmed civilians after the real NPA members fled the scene. Reports say President Aquino will direct the investigating team to conduct a second probe in Lupao. The team is headed by Colonel Pedro Watson [words indistinct]. Acting Governor Santos said the president is very concerned about the case and will surely extend assistance to the families of the massacre victims. [Santos recording indistinct]

AQUINO ANNOUNCES 24 SENATORIAL CANDIDATES

HK200901 [Editorial Report] Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog at 0821 GMT on 20 February 1987 carries live coverage of Philippine President Corazon Aquino's announcement of the administration's 24 senatorial candidates during a presentation at Malacanang Palace. The senatorial candidates, Aquino says, are as follows:

Representing the women: Nina Rasul, who has a masters degree in national security administration from the National Defense College, and Letty Ramos Shahani, also undersecretary for foreign affairs.

Former senators: Jovito Salonga, presently chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government and first elected congressman and then senator for three consecutive terms; Raul Manglapus, former secretary of foreign affairs; John Osmena, presently mayor of Cebu City; Ernesto Maceda, former minister of natural resources; Mamintal Tamano, undersecretary of foreign affairs.

Former assemblymen: Orly Mercado, former assemblyman from Quezon City; Bert Romulo, secretary of budget and former assemblyman from Quezon City; Neptali Gonzales, secretary of justice and former assemblyman; Art Defensor, undersecretary of education, former assemblyman from Iloilo; Nene Pimental, former secretary of local governments; Victor Ziga, secretary of general services, and former assemblyman from Albay.

Representing education: Dr Sotero Laurel, president of the Lyceum University; Dr Ed Angara, president of the University of the Philippines.

Representing cause-oriented groups: Butz Aquino, now in Zamboanga and chairman of Bandila [Bayan Nagkaisa sa Diwa and Layunin -- Nation United in Spirit and Purpose]; Tito Guingona, Commission on Audit chairman and former constitutional convention delegate; Rene Saguisag, Aquino's presidential spokesman during last elections; Wigberto Tanada, customs commissioner and son of Senator Tanada; Joey Lina, Metro Manila governor;

Representing labor: Boy Herrera [head of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines]; Bobbit Sanchez, former assemblyman and minister of labor; Sonny Alvarez, secretary of agrarian reforms and former constitutional convention delegate;

Representing business: Vicente Paterno.

The transmissions ends at 0830 GMT.

AQUINO TO PRESIDE OVER PEOPLE POWER CELEBRATION

HK200539 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] President Corazon Aquino will preside over a flag raising ceremony at 0800 on 25 February, the first anniversary of the People Power celebration.

The National Committee for Celebration of People Power also announced the arrival in the country of the renowned folk rock singers Peter, Paul and Mary to take part in celebration activities. The three singers are slated to visit the children's ward of the National Orthopedic Hospital in Quezon City on 23 February.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 will begin celebration of the EDSA [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue] revolution on 24 February at 0900 instead of 0730.

TOLENTINO ON OPPOSITION FILING SINGLE TICKET

HK201217 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] On the opposition side, Arturo Tolentino said he believed that the opposition will have a single ticket for the congressional elections. He admitted, however, that they continue to disagree on some political issues.

[Begin Tolentino recording in English] Shaping up an alliance of candidates without involving the political parties themselves. And I believe that while the Constitution encourages a multiparty system, actually our people and our men in politics are more inclined towards a two party system. Like in the administration which is formed by a coalition, although there are different parties they have a single ticket. That may happen also in the case of the opposition. And the opposition will possibly take until the end of the month before they can put up a common ticket. [end recording]

CORRECTION TO MUSLIM FACTION BOYCOTT OF TALKS

Insert the following passage after the final paragraph of the item headlined "MNLF Reformist Faction to Boycott 19 Feb Talks" published on pages P 8 and P 9 of the 18 February Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT:

The MILF said it is determined to pursue its struggle. "We are not fighting alone, (because) our NPA brothers are there."

This passage was inadvertently published at the bottom of page P 15 of the same issue.

**END OF
FICHE**

DATE FILMED

Feb. 24, 1987

